

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## OPINION METER

### This week's poll:

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Tan Holdings executives plant flame tree saplings to mark the corporation's 40th anniversary.

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### NATION



The Republican establishment is starting to coalesce around Mitt Romney.

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The party is on hold for The Situation, who is in rehabilitation.

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Senators, Fitial clash on apology for 'stupid' remark. **PAGE 2**  
Hospital doctors down to 24; 2 more physicians resign. **PAGE 3**

## Shortage of LP gas, cement on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**inian has a shortage of liquefied petroleum gas and cement for construction projects, forcing residents to either use butane gas for cooking or individually pay for shipment of LPG and cement from Saipan at a higher cost.



Hofschneider

"This started months after Tinian lost its only stevedoring business. The volume of LPG and cement that can go into Tinian has decreased," Tinian and Agui-guan Legislative Delegation chairman and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) told *Saipan Tribune*.

Peter Ballesteros, manager of Crystal Clear, the only distributor of 90-lb LPG cylinder on Tinian, said they stopped shipping LPG from Guam because of a lack of stevedoring service on the island.

He said Crystal Clear, which has been operating for some eight years, used to sell 90-lb LPG cylinder for \$197.

"When stevedoring stopped, we thought about using another ship going from Tinian to Saipan and back, but that would mean an additional \$90 for the shipment alone so that will increase the price to \$287. Customers won't be able to afford paying that for a 90-lb cylinder

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### PROTECTING LAOLAO BAY

CLARISSA V. DAVID

With the pristine waters of Laolao Bay as backdrop, Saipan Fishermen's Association president Gene Weaver, his 7-year-old daughter Tori, and 6-year-old son Garrett read the sign educating bay users about coral reefs after the launching of two grassroots initiatives dedicated to preserving and protecting one of Saipan's most important environmental and cultural sites. The Our Laolao campaign and the Tasi Watch outreach program, according to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, "are prime examples of efforts to inspire and empower community members to actively participate in conservation efforts and demonstrate the difference we can make when a community comes together for a good cause."

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## Fitial vetoes zoning bill

► **But OKs extending term of zoning board members**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed yesterday afternoon a local bill that makes massive changes to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, citing provisions that present

"significant legal concerns" specifically illegal "spot zoning."

Fitial, at the same time, signed into Public Law 17-70 House minority leader Joseph Guerrero's (R-Saipan) bill that increases the number

See FITIAL on **Page 4**



Fitial

## Mafnas accused of abusing power



Mafnas

► **DPS chief allegedly threatens guards, dive instructor**  
► **FBI, DPS investigate allegations**

By SAIPAN TRIBUNE REPORTORIAL TEAM

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas allegedly threatened to arrest, handcuff, and shoot two security guards and a dive instructor in separate incidents in Marpi.

*Saipan Tribune* learned from reliable sources that two Filipino security guards and a Korean dive instructor filed the

See MAFNAS on **Page 4**

## Local

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## Senators and Fitial clash on apology for 'stupid' remark

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The Senate has adopted a resolution asking Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to apologize to the people of Rota and Tinian for what they described as "inappropriate" comment made by the governor when he called "people" from the two islands "stupid" following the Senate's rejection of a House bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan.

Fitial, in response, said he has already apologized to the people of Tinian and Rota and clarified that his remarks were not directed at them, but rather to the senators from the two municipalities.

The Senate, in their resolution, acknowledged the governor's clarification but said such statement did not include an apology to the senators.

"I do not owe an apology to those six senators," Fitial said in a statement yesterday. "Those senators should be the ones coming forward to apologize to the people of the CNMI for blocking opportunities aimed at generating much needed revenues. This resolution is a waste of time and resources and a blatant attempt by the senators to cover up their failure to work toward improving the livelihood of the people."

By a vote of 7-0, senators adopted on Wednesday afternoon Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) Senate Resolution 17-84, which asks for such an apology from the governor.

The governor said he's "amazed at how quick" the senators passed what he describes as a "ridiculous" resolution.

"If only they acted this quickly on critical bills that would enhance our revenues, I'm sure families across the CNMI would not be suffering as much," Fitial said.

Hofschneider, in an interview, hopes that the issue over

the inappropriate remarks will be laid to rest soon.

"Although he retracted his comments later, the governor never really apologized to members of the Legislature thus exacerbating the already shaky relationship with the Senate. The governor shall not, at any given time and as the father of the NMI, to be acting on his emotion, making such vulgar language directed to other elected officials in the CNMI," the Senate said in their resolution.

The two-page resolution states in part that "the people of Rota and Tinian are infuriated and dismayed that the governor would make such comments without regard to the welfare of the people," it says.

The resolution also says that the governor's comments are creating a decisive political line between Saipan, Tinian and Rota that is detrimental to the welfare of a united Commonwealth.

"The governor should refrain from making political comments attacking or name-calling the people of Rota and Tinian because the governor represents the people of Rota and Tinian just the same as the people of Saipan," it adds.

Fitial said he stands by what he said "about those senators because just as I am the father of the CNMI, I am disheartened that six people are ruining the lives of my people."

"The casino issue was never about just improving Saipan. I supported that measure because it would have given much needed revenue to Tinian and Rota as well. So yes, I am appalled because as the father of the CNMI, I cannot believe that all my people are suffering at the behest of six senators. The people of the CNMI have suffered for a long time. It's time that those senators use their voting advantage to make people's lives better. They should think of the people first, and then they

See SENATORS on Next Page

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# Hospital doctors down to 24; 2 more physicians resign

## » Dr. Richards named acting DMA

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The doctor count at the Commonwealth Health Center continues to decline, with only 24 physicians remaining after the resignation of its director for Medical Affairs, Dr. Michael Deary, and two other physicians this week.

Saipan Tribune learned that just days after Deary's resignation, another physician assigned to the Obstetrics and Gynecology section followed suit. Dr. Jean Grant had already turned in her 30-day notice, hospital sources said.

Another physician, Dr. Joel Smith, who is assigned at the Internal Medicine section, also reportedly informed management about his decision not to renew his contract, which will expire on April 5.

This week, Commonwealth

Healthcare Corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta named Dr. Jeremy Richards as the new acting director for Medical Affairs. The position allows him to sit as a voting member of the corporation board.

Richards confirmed with the Saipan Tribune yesterday that the DMA post was offered to him on Wednesday and that he had accepted it. Richards has been with CHC for nine months now and is the hospital's psychiatrist.

With all the serious challenges besetting the corporation, Richards said his role as DMA would be tough but he promised to work on the "morale" at the hospital. "I think there's a lot of morale issues...and I would try to unite people, make plans together for better actions," he added.

As of January this year, there

were 27 doctors at the hospital, three of them locums, or short-term hires. The hospital also employs a number of physician assistants.

According to hospital personnel interviewed yesterday, they expect a few more doctors and health providers to leave within the year due to the worsening financial crisis at the hospital. They cited the uncertainties in their payroll, allotments, and the overall condition of the public hospital, which is short of important medical supplies

and equipment.

CHC staff said that they were not surprised when they learned of the departure of the three doctors and that many are expected to do the same in coming months as their contracts expire.

Babauta was in a meeting when contacted by Saipan Tribune yesterday for comments. In an earlier interview, Babauta said the corporation plans to hire eight more doctors.

Since the takeover of the healthcare corporation in October 2011, the agency was only

appropriated \$5 million for personnel and operations. The hospital is currently under a state of emergency declared by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Last Tuesday, the corporation

received \$1 million of a \$3 million loan from Marianas Public Land Trust to pay the seven pay period allotments for its employees' retirement and health insurance.

## SENATORS

From Page 2

can think about their subsistence allowance," the governor added.

Senators, by adopting the resolution, said if the governor feels the need to comment on legislative actions, "he should direct his comments to the appropriate legislative body and limit his comment to civil and respectful comments."

The Senate adopted the resolution on the same day they rejected two of Fitial's nominees to the Public Utilities Commission and Marianas Public Land Trust, after a heated debate mainly because of Senate floor leader Pete Reyes' (R-Saipan) accusations that Rota and Tinian senators were singling out nominees from Saipan as a result of the governor's remarks.

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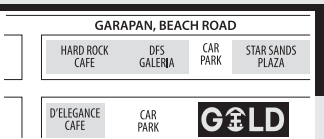
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## Two initiatives seek to preserve, protect Laolao Bay

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two grassroots initiatives dedicated to preserving and protecting Laolao Bay—considered a “community treasure” for its lush greens, abundant marine ecosystem, and historic value—were launched yesterday, paving the way for future generations to have the opportunity to enjoy one of Saipan’s most important environmental and cultural sites.

The “Our Laolao Litter-Free On Land & Sea” campaign and the Tasi Watch outreach program took off at the local

non-profit group Mariana Islands Nature Alliance’s hut in Laolao Bay, with the support of government officials, natural resources agency staffers, students, fishermen, and other community members.

Our Laolao campaign aims to highlight stories from stakeholders or “champions” who talk about the significance of Laolao Bay in their lives and in doing so, drum up support in making the bay litter-free. These stories are featured in the campaign website, during local events, or through local media.

The campaign is a collaborative effort between the Division of Environmental

Quality, Coastal Resources Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife, MINA, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, and the international non-profit organization SeaWeb.

MINA’s Tasi Watch outreach program seeks to have the users of Laolao Bay become the “Eyes of the Sea” by becoming volunteers who will receive training to assist and enforce local and federal laws that protect coastal areas, and help ensure that resources in the bay are maintained for future generations.

“This campaign reinforces the authority of regulating agencies in posi-

tive ways that help the community to become better environmental stewards of the bay,” said MINA executive director Sam Sablan, adding that the program also strives to reduce dependency on government services for natural resources management and conservation.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who led the launching of the two initiatives, said that he is “tremendously pleased” that programs engaging community involvement are taking place besides physical improvements at Laolao Bay.

Inos said both initiatives “are prime examples of efforts to inspire and empower community members to actively participate in conservation efforts and demonstrate the difference we can make when a community comes together for a good cause.”

Taunya DeBoer, adviser for Saipan Southern High School’s Youth Environmental Ambassadors, said they support the initiatives because “it aligns well with our mission statement.”

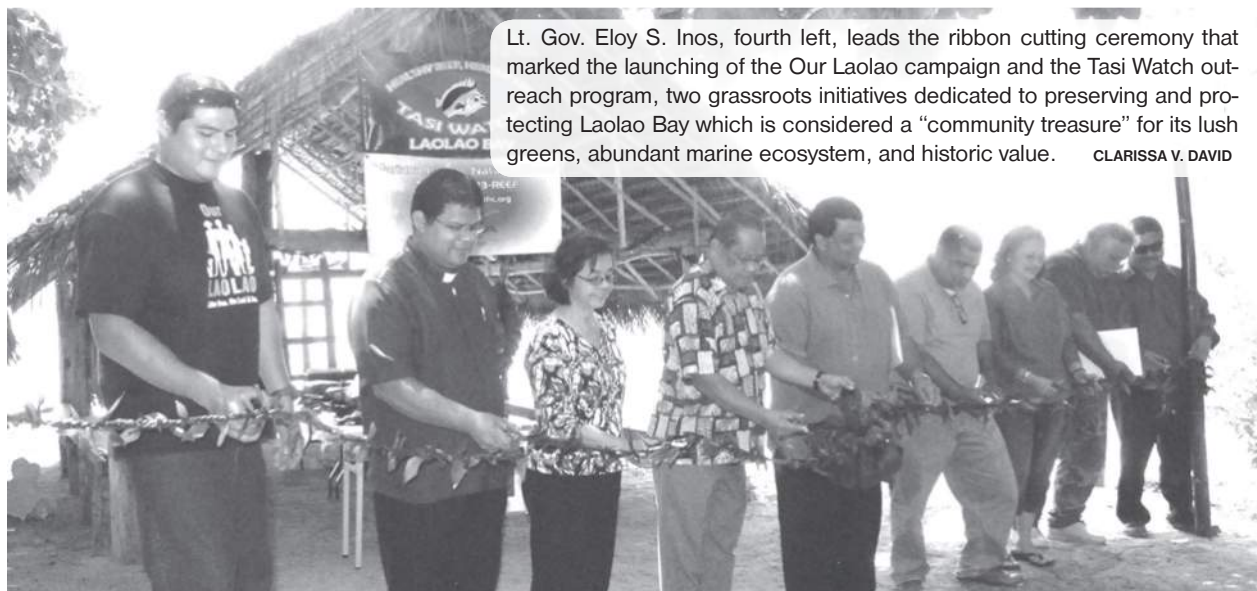
“Everything that they’re trying to

do to make Laolao litter-free is exactly what we’re trying to do. We’re trying to do it at several different areas,” she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gene Weaver, president of the Saipan Fishermen’s Association president, said that the two initiatives are “a step in the right direction.” Not only would it help protect the resources, it would also improve the island’s main industry which is tourism.

“It takes the community to come together to conserve,” said Weaver, who brought his children Tori, 7, and Garrett, 6. “We all have to do what we can to protect our own resources. If we don’t do anything, there is not going to be anything left soon.”

For information about Our Laolao campaign, visit their website at [www.ourlaolao.com](http://www.ourlaolao.com) or their Facebook page. Contact the campaign team through Jihan Buniag at 664-8522 or at [jihanbuniag@gmail.com](mailto:jihanbuniag@gmail.com). For Tasi Watch, contact Shin Perez at 233-7333 or at [minaoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:minaoutreach@gmail.com).



Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, fourth left, leads the ribbon cutting ceremony that marked the launching of the Our Laolao campaign and the Tasi Watch outreach program, two grassroots initiatives dedicated to preserving and protecting Laolao Bay which is considered a “community treasure” for its lush greens, abundant marine ecosystem, and historic value. CLARISSA V. DAVID

## LP GAS

From Page 1

of LPG. If they can’t afford it, what’s the use of selling the product?” Ballesteros said in a phone interview.

Liquefied petroleum gas is usually used as fuel for gas stoves.

Ballesteros said that Tinian residents have resorted to using butane gas for cooking.

Separate checks at Tinian stores yesterday revealed that a pack of butane gas now costs \$4.25 to \$4.50, from only \$3.99 a few weeks ago.

Residents and businesses with their own boats have started using their boats to go to Saipan just to buy two to three 90-lb cylinders of LPG, some Tinian resi-

dents said. But they said such transportation may alarm the U.S. Coast Guard.

Some businesses and households have also turned to SN-Five to ship 90-lb cylinders of LPG and cement for their individual uses.

“We’re still hoping that stevedoring business will return to Tinian so that we can again ship from Guam,” Ballesteros added.

Jenifer Dela Cruz, accountant at FPA Pacific Corp., which is the lone distributor of cement products on Tinian, said they also had difficulty bringing cement products to Tinian because of a lack of stevedoring service.

“Big containers from Saipan are no longer shipped here because there’s no stevedoring service. As a result, we could no longer sell and distribute ce-

ment on Tinian,” Dela Cruz said.

She said others also now go through SN-Five for individual shipment of cement products from Saipan.

Hofschneider said the Tinian Legislative Delegation, at its next session, would be able to act on his local bill that would establish a Tinian Stevedoring Division within the Office of the Tinian Mayor. He pre-filed the bill in February, four months since the island lost the services of a private firm, Tinian Stevedore, that loads and offloads vessels at its port.

The Tinian Mayor’s Office said the only means of getting new supply to Tinian, SN-5 Shipping, “is already swamped and unable to maintain pace with demand for dry goods and construction materials.”

## FITIAL

From Page 1

of terms that a person can serve on the Zoning Board. The new law allows them to serve up to five two-year terms, for a total of 10 years.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of the vetoed House Local Bill 17-26, said he would convince both houses of the Legislature to override the governor’s veto.

“If I don’t succeed in convincing my colleagues to override it, I may take the matter to court to strike down the entire zoning law,” Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor, in vetoing HLB 17-26, said that while there are substantial portions that appear consistent with the law and consistent with sound public policy, other provisions present significant legal concerns.

“Specifically, the law contains instances of illegal ‘spot zoning’ by the [Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation], inconsistent with the Zoning Code at 2 CMC 7201, et seq.,” Fitial said in his veto message to SNILD chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Eli Cabre-

ra (R-Saipan).

Fitial said in most jurisdictions, laws promoting “spot zoning” or zoning based on ownership or reasons other than public welfare have been struck down by the courts as invalid.

Citing case laws, the governor said that “spot zoning” is considered arbitrary and most jurisdictions hold that spot zoning is illegal per se.

“The primary difficulty with the new zoning law is the relationship between the changes in zoning and the effect on public health, safety and welfare. ... Certain rezones in the floor amendments to the bill appear inconsistent with the duty to promote the general public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Saipan,” the governor said.

He cited as an example Section 4 of the bill involving lots in Koblerville. He said these amendments rezone six lots bounded on three sides by village residential zoning in a residential neighborhood in Koblerville to mixed commercial and several other lots in a nearby rural/tourist resort area to mixed commercial.

“This is an example of an action likely to be characterized by the Judiciary as spot zoning, as the zoning amendments are expressly enacted for the benefit of individual property owners,

implicating judicial concerns. There is no indication of how these changes can work as part of a comprehensive zoning plan or how they promote the public good,” the governor said.

He added that this is especially “troubling” as the changes are explicitly for the benefit of identified public properties, strongly suggesting that these and many of the other amendments are invalid spot zoning.

The governor said the code also calls for a public hearing on any proposed change of district boundary, uses or requirements, and no hearings were held on several of the changes contained in the floor amendments to the bill.

“Notwithstanding the severability provisions of HLB 17-26, the high likelihood of litigation with a ruling adverse to the Commonwealth requires that I veto the proposed bill,” he said.

The Zoning Board, Saipan Chamber of Commerce and other individuals have strongly opposed the passage of HLB 17-26 and asked the governor not to sign the bill.

Douglas Brennan, Chamber president, asked that the bill be disapproved so that the “progress and improvements” made as a result of such law won’t go to waste.

## MAFNAS

From Page 1

complaints against Mafnas before DPS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in February 2012.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from Mafnas yesterday but he had yet to call or send an email as of press time.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday he is not aware of this issue at this time.

Sources said that police detectives Patrick Sablan and Jeffrey I. Norita of the DPS Criminal Investigation Division are handling the investigation.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that, according to the complaints, in the morning of May or June 2011, when police were searching for missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, a Toyota 4Runner came to Bird Island lookout.

The driver of the vehicle, whose uniform’s nametag had the name Mafnas, approached the security guard at his work post. At the time, Mafnas was with several officers.

As the guard was greeting the tourists at the area, Mafnas approached him and asked him if he was doing his job. Mafnas allegedly told the guard to stop greeting the tourist because he is not a police officer and that this is not the Philippines, Bangladesh, or Nepal.

Mafnas told the guard that his job is to log down all license plates of vehicles that arrive at Bird Island lookout and to stay only in the guardhouse.

As the guard tried to explain his duties and assignment, the DPS commissioner allegedly told him to keep quiet and that he does not need his explanation.

The guard also had another encounter with Mafnas in September 2011 at the Grotto when the commissioner arrived aboard a white Toyota 4Runner with license plate ACD-699.

Mafnas approached the guard at his post and inquired about a vehicle parked at the eastern portion of the Grotto parking lot. The guard explained that the vehicle is owned and operated by a Korean who often comes to the Grotto with customers for scuba diving lessons.

When the Korean arrived after a few minutes, Mafnas approached and inquired about his license plate sticker. The Korean explained that someone stole his sticker, but Mafnas told him to be quiet.

Mafnas introduced himself to the Korean as the DPS commissioner and that he (Korean) does not respect him. Mafnas allegedly showed the Korean a handcuff and asked him if he wants to be arrested.

The commissioner also ordered the Korean to show him his driver’s license and vehicle registration. The Korean instructed one of his friends to bring the documents from inside the vehicle’s glove compartment.

The diving instructor was surprised when Mafnas allegedly approached and shouted, “What you think, I’m playing around?” The commissioner again allegedly took out the handcuff and asked the Korean if he wants to be arrested.

The Korean begged Mafnas not to arrest him and promised that he will put the sticker on the license plate. The diving instructor later learned from the guard that it was Mafnas, the DPS commissioner.

That same day, the Korean called the FBI and spoke to a special agent, who told the Korean he would call Mafnas to resolve the matter. The Korean asked the special agent not to call Mafnas and just forget the incident.

With respect to the complaint of the second security guard, the guard was at his post at Suicide Cliff when a white Toyota 4Runner and a silver Nissan Frontier arrived at the area.

Mafnas, who was wearing a dark overall with a name tag Mafnas, approached the guard and allegedly started shouting at him, asking him why he was just standing there.

The guard asked him for his name and Mafnas replied that he is the DPS commissioner.

Mafnas told the guard to move his car that was parked at the southeast portion of Suicide Cliff. Mafnas also asked the guard for his driver’s license. As the guard was trying to explain why he parked his car in the parking area, the commissioner kept telling him to shut up and be quiet.

Mafnas allegedly warned the guard to move his car or he would arrest him, handcuff him, then shoot him. The commissioner allegedly continued telling the guard if he wants to be arrested or shot.

The guard told the detectives investigating the complaint that he was afraid so he did not file a formal complaint with DPS for fear of retaliation. The guard told the detectives he was very disturbed by Mafnas and scared for his life.

## MHS Glee Club gets sweepstakes trophy



Members of the Marianas High School's Rhythm 'N' Harmony received the perpetual Tumon Bay Music Festival sweepstakes trophy from SSMS' Manta Band musical director Will DeWitt during the opening ceremonies yesterday of the CNMI Statewide Professional Development held at MHS gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School Rhythm 'N' Harmony Glee Club received yesterday the 6-foot tall Tumon Bay Music Festival Sweepstakes Trophy from last year's festival champion, Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band, during the opening ceremonies of the two-day CNMI Statewide Professional Development at the MHS gymnasium.

The Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club was the overall winner at the Guam festival early this month. It was their first time to join the competition.

SSMS band director Will Dewitt presented the perpetual trophy to glee club members who were accompanied by coach and musical director Paul Dujua, club adviser and choral program director Harold Easton, and MHS interim principal Cheryl Cabrera.

The group is slated to perform at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Tan Holdings and the annual military ball and is gearing up for a concert within the year. *(Moneth Deposa)*

## PSS: Some non-HQTs still being hired as substitutes

The CNMI Public School System continues to employ non-highly qualified teachers as substitutes—both for short- and long-term periods.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* on Wednesday that the system currently employs substitutes who are paid on an on-call basis.

"Some substitutes are serving in short-term and some are long-term, depending on the needs of the school," she said.

Short-term substitutes usually work for three to 10 days only while long-term hires sometimes work for four or five months. The minimum requirement for substitute teachers is a bachelor or associate degree.

Sablan could not immediately say the exact number of substi-

tutes currently employed by PSS, but assured that principals are keeping track of them and their performance.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that PSS pays substitutes with bachelor degrees \$100 daily, while those with associate degrees get \$60 a day. HQTs who serve as substitutes will get \$150 daily.

Hopwood Junior High principal Jonas Barcinas said that seven of his 45 teachers are substitutes, many of them hired at the beginning of the school year and are expected to teach until the end of the school year.

At Kagman High School, principal Alfred Ada said that two of his 26 teachers are substitutes and have been working since the start of the school year. *(Moneth Deposa)*

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Teen Talk show premiere cancelled**

The Teen Talk show premiere scheduled for March 23 has been canceled until further notice due to technical difficulties. (PR)

**KagES to host Magic Ryan show**

Kagman Elementary School is hosting a magic show featuring Magic Ryan from Guam. Proceeds will go to the school. Show is on Friday, March 23, at 7pm at Kagman Elementary School. Tickets are \$5 for ages 11 and below, \$7 for ages 12 and up. Magic Ryan will perform his famous money transformation trick, rope trick, card tricks, coin tricks, and other amazing tricks. (PR)

**Navy, Air Force training at FDM**

The U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- March 24, from 9am to 9pm
- March 26, 27 and 28, from 6:30am to 11:59pm
- March 29 and 30, from 6:30am to 9:45pm
- March 31, from 6:30am to 10:30pm

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (USN)

**'Checks scam no impact on current tax refund checks' release'**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Finance said yesterday that the scheme recently uncovered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation involving the cashing of fraudulent CNMI tax refund checks does not impact the current tax refunds and rebates that will soon be released.

FBI arrested on Monday one suspect in the refund checks scam, Mohammad Jahangir Miah, who is on

home confinement for his conviction in a driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said the checks in this case are from "several years ago" and "do not have anything to do with current tax refunds/rebates that will be released in the near future."

"As the investigation is ongoing and initial arrests have been made, I cannot comment on the case at this time be-

cause I do not want to jeopardize the work that has been done by DPS and the FBI," Larson said in an email interview yesterday.

Larson also said the Department of Finance was the one that requested assistance from DPS and FBI "and have been assisting in the investigation and provided all necessary documents required to assist in this investigation."

"Upon receiving word that the investigation is completed and all guilty parties have been brought to

justice, I will be able to comment further," she added.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a separate interview, said the government will continue to release rebate and refund checks due to taxpayers.

"It's a liability of the government. Guam had over \$200 million and they ended up borrowing money to pay it so ... That is still an option. It's a matter of whether or not we have the credit ability to do the borrowing," he said.

**Youth Christian group visits Aging Center**

Thirteen members of the Youth With A Mission group from Brisbane, Australia introduce themselves to the man'amko during their visit to the Aging Center last March 21.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Thirteen members of Youth With A Mission, an international volunteer movement of Christians from many backgrounds, cultures, and Christian traditions visited the

Aging Center on Wednesday.

The visitors, ranging in age from 18 to 25, introduced themselves as coming from countries like Canada, Norway, England, Spain, Switzerland, and the U.S. Their YWAM group is based in Brisbane, Australia and are currently staying at the

YWAM facility on Capital Hill.

They entertained the island's elderly with animated worship song and dance numbers and other short performances.

Rengesuul Yobech, YWAM coordinator on Saipan, said the group arrived on Saipan on Feb. 29 for a monthlong

stay. He said a similar group was also here last summer.

According to Yobech, their Saipan stay is part of their six-month "discipleship training": three months are spent learning about their relationship with God and the other three months are devoted to applying what they learned overseas.

During their stay, the Brisbane group will be working with other youth groups. They will be visiting the Life in the Son group on Friday night and the Grace Christian Academy youth on Saturday morning. They will also perform on Thursday night at the Garapan Street Market.

As program coordinator, Yobech said he chose to include the man'amko in the group's program because "they deserve to be blessed and have fun."

"I hope that they will be blessed with the message we're sharing with them and continue to live long and be an example for all of us on how to live a strong and healthy life," added Yobech.

The YWAM program on Saipan began in 1978 with two families. For more information about YWAM, visit [www.ywam.org](http://www.ywam.org).



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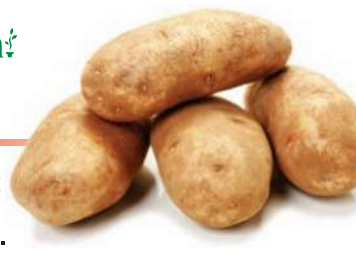
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## April workshop aims to teach small businesses how to export

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Department of Commerce, announced the availability of a new program under the State Trade Export Program, funded in part through the Small Business Administration, to assist the CNMI's eligible small businesses who wish to take the opportunity to participate at international trade shows, trade missions or reverse trade missions, to enter new markets or grow existing ones.

The State Trade Export Program or STEP program is a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration that was recently awarded to the CNMI Department of Commerce. This program is to provide assistance and services through SBA resource partners to eligible small businesses in the CNMI. The STEP program aims at increasing the number of small businesses that are exporting, and increase the value of exports by small businesses in the states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

"This is an opportunity for existing small businesses to avail of this program in terms of expanding their locally made or produced products into the foreign markets. In addition, the program also offers an opportunity for a new entity who wishes to learn and understand the dynamics of exporting through the Foreign Trade Development Program," said Perry Inos Jr., NMI STEP point of contact for Commerce.

The Foreign Trade Development Program is designed to provide CNMI small businesses the opportunity to engage in the foreign trade and export marketing. This includes providing the CNMI small business program participants with appropriate export organizational sessions and technical assistance to prepare and address the various dynamics of exporting to foreign markets.

"The FTDP program will provide the program participants with foreign trade and exporting elements through series of export organizational sessions, which will be conducted by export industry experts. Upon successful completion of the FTDP, participants will be required to develop an Export Business Plan. The participants will have their Export plan reviewed and guided by the CNMI STEP team and SBA resource partners," added Inos.

There will be an Export 101 workshop scheduled for April 11-12, 2012, from 8am to 4pm, at the Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe. Any interested small business who wishes to participate in this opportunity may call Inos at (670) 664-3023, or David R. Maratita at (670) 664-3065, or email: NMISTEP.POC@commerce.gov.mp. (*Office of the Governor*)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 23, 2001

### DLNR, MRC urged to amend marina deal

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources should either amend its leasing agreement with Marine Revitalization Corporation in the operation of the Outer Cove Marina or find another company to manage it. These were the recommendations made by the Office of Public Auditor on the DLNR-MRC agreement for operating the Outer Cove Marina covering the period May 1993 to October 1998. The audit revealed that both parties failed to comply with most of the terms of their lease agreement. For instance, the report cited, the department failed to prevent boats from being moored at the Smiling Cove Marina.

### Carriers save \$200K from CPA's incentive program

Major signatory airlines flying the Saipan route made an estimated \$200,000 savings after the Commonwealth Ports Authority refunded almost 50 percent of the departure facility charge collected from them. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said CPA ordered a 50 percent off on departure facility charge since November last year and the discounted rate is part of the Airline Incentive Program. Signatory airlines usually pay the departure facility charges in advance and CPA has to credit it back to airline companies after CPA decided to extend the program's implementation, said Mr. Salas.

Mar. 23, 2003

### PIDB optimistic on more equity contributions

Managers and shareholders of the Pacific Islands Development Bank held back-to-back meetings here yesterday, to review pending loan applications and initiate the process of securing additional equity from three entities that have yet to complete the \$1-million capital share required of each PIDB member. PIDB President Aren Palik disclosed that he and Board of Governors Chairman, CNMI Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, are working on a formal process to seek additional funding from Kosrae, Chuuk and Guam. "I cannot speak with any certainty whether or not we're going to receive any amount. But I can assure you that we will try our best and move the process forward," Palik told reporters yesterday, prior to the start of the annual PIDB Board of Governors meeting at the Commonwealth Development Authority office.

### Tenorio affirms amended order

Labor Secretary Joaquin A. Tenorio has affirmed an amended administrative order awarding some \$1,300 to a worker on Tinian, on top of a transfer relief as embodied in the original order. In his decision issued March 17, 2003, Tenorio said the amended order signed by hearing officer Vicente Seman on October 8, 2002, which granted petitioner Victoria Sergueeva \$1,336, was proper. This even as Tenorio, in his appeal order, noted that in issuing the original order, "the hearing officer had inadvertently failed to address the prayer made by the Director of Labor to award contract damages [lost wages] to Sergueeva."

Mar. 23, 2004

### Govt to ensure equity in nursing pay

The government will ensure that local nurses working at the Commonwealth Health Center get an equitable pay, according to Gov. Juan N. Babauta. "We're going to bring equity in their salary. We've met with them and our nurses just want equity and I support them," he said. He said he will ask the Civil Service Commission, the Legislature, as well as other key agencies such as the Office of Personnel Management, and the Attorney General's Office, to be present in the next round of talks with the local nurses.

### Villagomez opposes proposed terminal fee

A ranking lawmaker is strongly opposed to the proposed implementation of the Passenger Facility Charge that the Commonwealth Ports Authority is mulling to remedy its financial standing. In a letter addressed to CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas, House vice speaker and Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication chair Timothy Villagomez stressed that implementing an additional charge to passengers may affect the slow rebound of the tourism industry. "I request the CPA to reconsider its proposed passenger facility charge scheduled to take effect. We urge CPA to consider fee revenue only as the course of last resort after exploring all possible measures, including cost-cutting solutions, to improve CPA's financial ability to make debt service payments," said Villagomez in the letter dated March 18, 2004.

## Red Cross upbeat for tomorrow's walkathon

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is expecting better participation among public school students for their annual walkathon this year following the "great support" they received from the Public School System.

Executive director John Hirsh said yesterday that in previous walkathons, they had to deal with fundraising concerns among public schools after PSS brought to a halt all school-organized fundraisers in and outside campuses.

"We've straightened that out," Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune*. "We're hoping that we're going to see participation from all 30 public and private schools and we're hoping to have close to 2,000 people attend the event."

This year marks the 26th year of the annual walkathon, which

will be held tomorrow. A \$15 donation entitles each walker or runner a T-shirt and a free sandwich.

Registration will begin at 6am for the walk, which starts from the 4-H Building in Susupe to the Garapan Fishing Base and back. Hirsh said there will be five aid stations providing refreshments such as sliced fruits and drinks. Simultaneous walks will also be held on Tinian and Rota.

Saturday's event will also feature lots of activities, including a health fair by the Division of Public Health, cooking demonstration from the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, a petting zoo, carnival games, face painting, and a big truck show from the Department of Public Safety.

The success of tomorrow's event boils down to Red Cross' partnership with the community, said Hirsh. "We're hoping

that the community will turn out and support the Red Cross and our humanitarian mission. In turn, Red Cross is going to provide a wonderful event where families can get together and have a lot of healthy activities."

Hirsh said pledge forms and donations are looking good this year, with several schools having already turned in their proceeds "but usually, everyone turns it in either [today] or Saturday."

This year, Hirsh said they got the support of large companies and organizations on island. Premier sponsors are Coca-Cola, Foremost, Subway, Glimpses Advertising, and Scoops. Other sponsors are Joeten Enterprises, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, and First Hawaiian Bank.

Hirsh noted that Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Saipan World Resort were generous with the waterpark passes they provided. These passes are among the prizes to be given to walkers who raise \$75 on their pledge forms.

Hirsh encouraged the community to take part in the walkathon and support the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross. "It's a very safe walk because it will be in the pathway. You don't have to worry so much about any cars or getting hurt," he added.

For more information, call 234-3459.

## Rotary's Las Vegas Night on Cinco de Mayo

The Rotary Club of Saipan will be hosting this year's Las Vegas Night fundraiser with a Cinco de Mayo theme.

Rotary Club secretary Laila Boyer on Tuesday said their signature fundraiser will be held on May 5 at the Saipan World Resort.

Tickets for the Las Vegas Night will be sold by Rotarians for \$5 each or \$20 per booklet.

Proceeds from the event,

Boyer said, will be dedicated to the construction of the Kagman Children's Park. "The more tickets we sell, the more funds we'll raise for the children of Kagman," added Boyer.

According to Boyer, the Rotary Club has sent out letters to several car dealers for the grand prize of a brand new car to Las Vegas Night's lucky winner. (Clarissa V. David)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

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## GOP wants to end Medicare guarantee

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is the CNMI's delegate to the U.S. Congress.



Most of us have a 1.45 percent deduction in our paychecks for Medicare. No one likes taxes, but we understand that paying this Medicare tax guarantees we will have health care in our old age. Given the ever-increasing cost of care, it's good to know we can count on that insurance.

But the Republican budget released yesterday in Congress takes away the Medicare guarantee. Under the Republican budget you can work hard all your life, pay your taxes, and still be left without the security of Medicare. Instead there will be a cap on how much assistance you can get—no matter how sick you become.

The Republican plan creates a two-class system. By offering a voucher to buy private insurance, if it is cheaper, Republicans encourage people who are healthy to get out of Medicare. Those who are left are the sickest and most expensive patients. Anyone who understands how insurance system works understands that this is a prescription to kill Medicare.

Don't take my word for it. Here is what the American Association of Retired Persons, or AARP, says about how the Republican plan will hurt us.

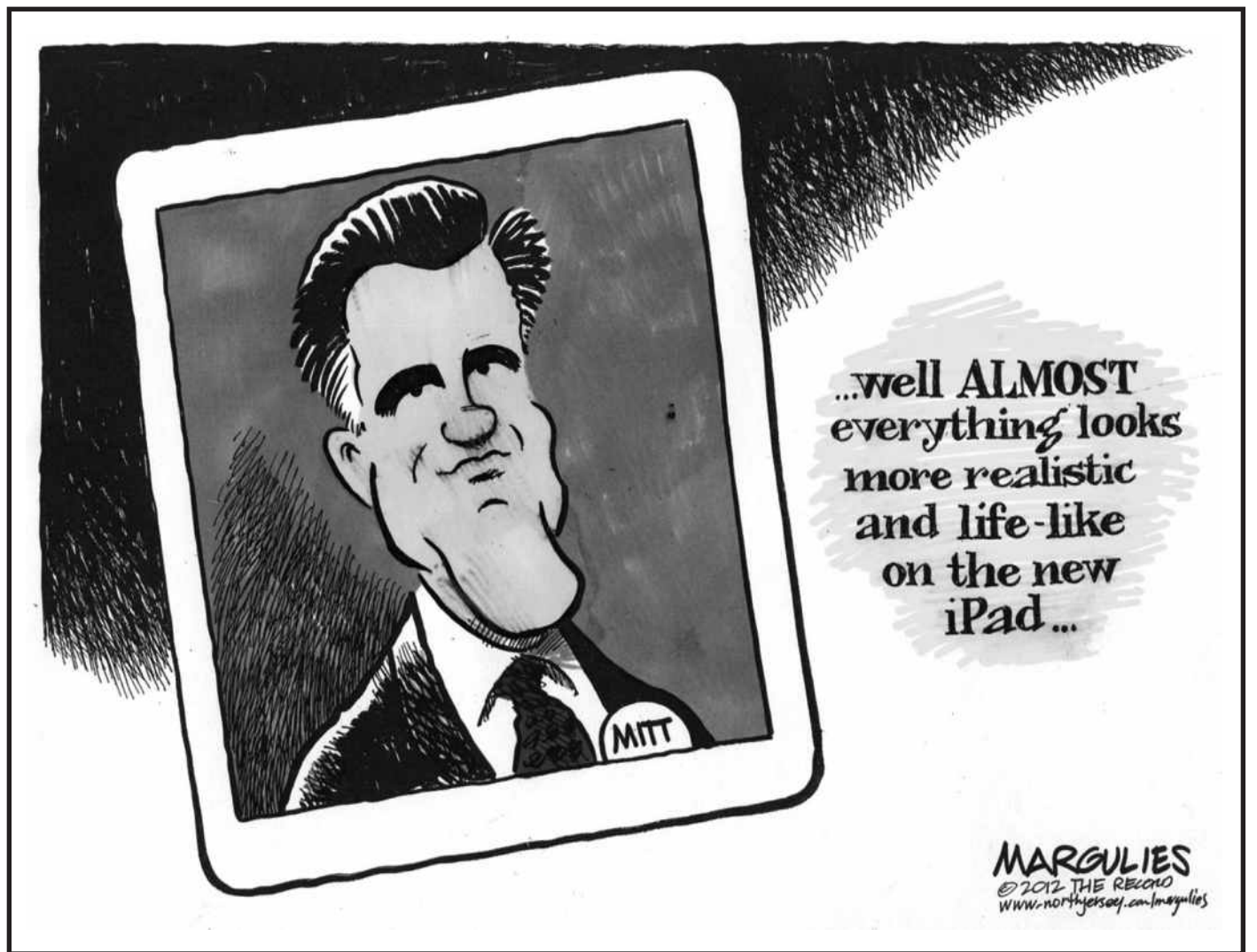
By creating a [voucher] system for future Medicare beneficiaries, the proposal is likely to simply increase costs for beneficiaries while removing Medicare's promise of secure health coverage—a guarantee that future seniors have contributed to through a lifetime of hard work.

"The proposal lacks balance," says AARP, and "jeopardizes the health and economic security of older Americans."

Republicans also plan to kill the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare," if they can. It is true there are problems that will have to be fixed. But today, on the two-year anniversary of the new law, seniors in the Marianas are already benefiting from extra help with prescription drug costs and taking advantage of free check-ups that Obamacare provides. And all of us are protected from insurance companies dropping our coverage if we get sick, billing us into bankruptcy because of annual or lifetime limits, and, soon, denying us coverage if we have a pre-existing condition.

The Commonwealth government has received \$3 million from the Affordable Care Act to fight unreasonable insurance premiums, promote preventive care, and bring health professionals to people's homes to help with infant and early childhood development. And there is over \$100 million in new Medicaid funding over the next eight years that the Commonwealth has already started to draw down.

All Americans deserve the security of health care, especially in old age. But the Republican plan to end the Medicare guarantee and repeal the Affordable Care Act takes us away from that worthy goal. As your representative in Congress, I will keep working to make sure we all have access to health care at a price we can afford, as individuals and as a nation.



## Redundancy on casino

To allow or disallow casinos on Saipan doesn't require the brain of a rocket scientist to see its success or failure. Take a quick glimpse at Tinian and Rota to see if in fact they have individually and collectively succeeded in accomplishing its goal by sheer establishment. If Tinian Dynasty owes the NMI government some \$30 million in taxes, is that an indication that the industry is doing well? If not, is translocation of the industry to Saipan a sure bet in revenue generation?

Next, visitors or tourists have expressly said they don't particularly care about casino. They are primarily interested in the essence of our people, i.e., cultural traditions that make us unique within countries in Asia and the Pacific. They relish the uniqueness of the triad: sun, sea, and sand that offer warmth especially during cold winter months. So why would our men of warped wisdom dare turn the tropical ambiance of paradise into superficial glitz and glamour? Could we match Macau's thunderbird services?

Or are the wild swings from half-cocked proponents loaded with empty rhetoric that are at best, speculation; last ditch pitch in an attempt to establish and foster permanent ruination of our island ways. Why the "quick fix" mindset that runs in tandem with dismissive arrogance? The development of an orderly island community can never be treated with the Instant Soba Mindset. Nah!

You don't want Article 12 removed for fear of cultural genocide, yet you want the most powerful agent of change to come in through the back door? Isn't this personal conflict and blurred vision the most egregious that any of you could commit against your people? *Mañge i antau na sensian miyu?*

### Forging harmony

There's the once strong cultural tradition of forging peace among and between feuding parties before sunset. This was especially strong in the olden days when our elderly intervene to bring harmony to everybody in the village before nightfall.

I've been to some of these gatherings and heard the words of wisdom from our elderly. With statesman-like stature and civility, they used linguistic inflection and diction in its highest form to explain that harmony is the forte and foundation of island communities and what occurs when discordance prevails over harmony among a group of people. They're basically saying harmony fosters peace everywhere!

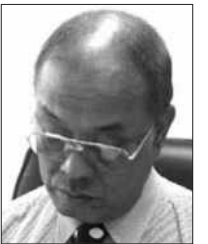
It's a real learning experience how the old folks used cultural diplomacy to pacify and realign newly erupted feud among families and members of the community or married couples. The goal in these discussions is to bring peace to the table before sunset. It gives everybody a chance to go to sleep with a good taste in his or her mouth over acidic sentiments that otherwise would have them toasting in bed all night long.

Leadership must veer off adolescence when engaged in discuss-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



ing serious and critical issues of state. Taking the high road grants each side greater use of their cranium and the opportunity to arrive at an understanding of what's at issue. I'm sure this uplifting experience fosters and strengthens our ability at problem solving with a grand sense of civility where everybody walks away a winner.

Sad, though, that the two folks never learned the essence of this aspect of the local culture in the resolution of issues where each side is level headed. It's *la rason over la kodun politika!*

### Power of two islands

The Covenant agreement provided for a bicameral legislative body. This granted equal representation of all three senatorial districts in the upper chamber or the Senate. It was a sleek political move on the part of the Rota during the political status negotiations. I don't recall any lengthy discussion on the matter, though it became the rallying point of the Covenant's approval.

For all intent and purposes, it should not have been made a part of the agreement given that it's the purview of governance to decide its legislative system—unicameral or bicameral. Had the issue been disposed at the local level, it would have brought greater opportunity to change the status quo to something that is financially affordable today given the fiscal crisis besetting these isles.

The disposition of this issue is all a matter of definition. If we want it removed or repealed, then it should be introduced in the U.S. Congress for legislative hearing and subsequent decision. Difficult the situation may be, it eludes Saipan legislators that the avenue to quelling funneling more money to the two senatorial districts is a matter of civility in any negotiations. Eh, you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. It's easier said than done, what with genetic high blood pressure being prevalent among the elected elite.

Budget proposals hit \$180 million for fiscal year 2013 while the projected revenue is about \$102 million or some \$78 million more than what would be available. This places the responsibility on both sides of the street to institute fiscal responsibility in how this meager resource is spent. There isn't much up that alley, is there? Could we reasonably stay optimistic that revenue generation would improve

See CASINO on Next Page

## Gas prices

High gas prices are still with us. They're getting attention: A couple of alert readers sent me some articles on this realm, one of them looking at the oil futures markets, and the other noting some closures in the refinery industry. These readers are worried that gas prices are more likely to go up than down.

I'm still going over the information they sent, though for today, I offer no pontification or speculation. But if you're looking for commiseration, I'm all for that. Pull up a beach chair. Pop a cold one. Let's gripe.

After all, expensive fuel is the bane of my existence. It not only makes cars more expensive to drive and air conditioning more expensive to run, but it makes airplanes more expensive to fly, which hits me as well. So I catch grief from all sides. The blue sky is a little grayer, the grass is a little less green, and my dinner tastes a little less savory. Yes, I pity the fool, and the fool is me.

And I can't think of a way to wiggle out of this box either. Although I am bit of a commodities geek, I don't have a reliable forecast for oil prices a year down the road or, for that matter, an hour down the road. The market is held hostage by geopolitical factors, notably in the Middle East, of course, and I'm not willing to bet one thin dime on that action. So I'm riding the roller coaster, with nary a hedge to keep me in my seat.

One thing I've heard lately, whether it's overhearing pedestrian conversations or hearing commentary in the media, is "anger" over high gas prices. That is an echo of times a zillion years ago, when disco roamed the earth in polyester leisure suits, and when AMC Gremlins ate pet rocks and mood rings. We had a couple of gas

crises as I recall, and during one of them I had the honor of working at, yes, a gas station.

Though most customers took things in stride at the gas station, we had our share of raving, angry psychos, too. They wanted to vent their rage on me. Did they really think that a teenager working the gas pumps set global oil prices?

Meanwhile, some people ran their tanks so low that they ran out of gas in the queue.

And, related to that, there is apparently an entire school of thought that if gas is expensive, things will be automatically solved if you just put two bucks worth into the tank and worry about the rest later. Indeed, some people don't really have a concept of the future, but see things as merely "now" or "not now." Just get the needle off the "E," and things are OK for now, and the goal is to do that for minimum expense.

Speaking of which, Saipan's entire approach to economics is based on that outlook. You can see the glorious results all around you. La Fiesta Mall is a good example, it's one of those rare photos that speaks economics better than economics does.

Well, I'll stir the pot a little and if you want to get downright worried, then I'll float this point: Gasoline prices can pretty much go straight up. There is nothing to hold them down. To use a fancy term, demand is inelastic. To use a not-fancy term, we'd rather pay up than walk.

By contrast, when coffee gets expensive, we can substitute tea. When pencils get expensive, we can use pens. When oil gets expensive, we can, well, we can buy gas anyway, or hoof it. Yes, I am confident that alternative liquid fuels will become more common,

## You were right about PSS, Remi

I just want Remi Sablan to know that people should be happy and thank her for holding education officials accountable. She was worried about someone getting mad at her but I want her to know that she is indeed appreciated and that I got her back. Her letter on PSS' waste was informative and revealing as there were some things that I was also questioning. I want to thank her and encourage her and other stakeholders in our education system to start speaking up and holding education officials accountable or there will be no accountability and we all know what that means—waste and even worse, as Remi stated.

But I must be fair as some of the things stated in her letter were not waste but necessary improvements that were the results of ARRA funding, which was meant for our Public School System to improve the "infrastructure and purchase collateral equipment." Things like the new TVs and chairs were really needed as I can remember being a board member sitting in a hard folding chair all day in some meetings and it was not nice because I don't have a lot of meat to sit on—you dig. Technology also needed to be updated and the infrastructure improvements were definitely needed. So we have to give PSS a pass and even a passing grade for being one of the few CNMI agencies that truly capitalized on the ARRA funding. But it is still PSS' fault for not making sure the stakeholders knew this as they are using the expensive PSS newspaper for the wrong purpose.

1. Remi also said:

■ *The financial crisis at PSS is due to the Board of Education not handling the waste, abuse and mismanagement properly.* She was right in a way but it is really the board's fault for not holding the commissioner accountable. One of the biggest weaknesses in our education system is the lack of systemic accountability that extends both horizontally and vertically throughout the system. With teacher contracts under a nonrenewable status without cause, there will *never* be complete accountability of PSS' operations and activities with teachers, staff, principals, administrators, and the commissioner. She mentioned the BlackBerry purchases for all management and principals—they *did not* need them as their duty station is a "stationary" post with phones and the most they could actually justify is a simple phone for emergencies. I bet some of them probably didn't want the additional headache but could use the free phone.

■ *The glamour/colorful expensive printing cost of PSS quarterly newsletter.* This is education politics to make the COE look good, pure and simple. Just think who is in most of the pictures, the commissioner. The paper was not a means of getting all the stakeholders involved and informing them about the good and the challenges in education because that would mean more accountability to the stakeholders. Furthermore, many of these newspapers are *never* read because of its presentation—mostly the people who are in the paper are the ones who really go through it.

■ *The glamour and expensive picture frames at PSS hallways and BOE conference room.* It is OK as long as the frames stay when their picture comes down. You know how things seem to just fly away on their own.

■ *The expensive conference room furniture at BOE's conference room.* ARRA money that had to be spent.

■ *The expensive 48" flat screen in the central conference room and BOE's conference room.* More ARRA

2. Mismanagement:

■ *BOE approved increase of salary for one upper management with retroactive pay.* May have deserved it.

■ *Uncollected travel advances due from mostly upper management, with one individual of over \$20,000, as reported by the auditor.* I checked, unlike those who don't do their homework, and the board is still waiting for an update on this one and I hope it won't take the Public Auditor to get it straight.

■ *Every time the COE travels out of the CNMI, about 2-3 PSS staff will come along with her, and BOE chairperson approves all travel outside the CNMI.* All I can say is, "Amen to that one, Remi."

■ *PSS pays some individuals (sweetheart deal) professional contracts. (No question from BOE.)* It is sad when a certain person can get her husband a contract but other people who are highly qualified under NCLB can't get a contract—so I will let readers call this one because what I want to say the editor won't print. But this is a good example of exactly what Remi was talking about when she said, "The nepotism hiring practice at the expense of our children's education. (No question from BOE.). Amen again, Remi!"

3. Harassment: To make it short on harassment within PSS, Remi was dead on about the harassment and fear that still dwells within PSS, which is run like the government. She was so right about how employees are scared of losing their job. If you want to keep your job, don't complain—but complaints are direct forms of accountability tests that are so desperately needed within PSS!

Remi's plea for the board to take action is well founded and based on some very clear *just causes* of concern, especially when the leader of the school system knew the power might be cut off but still got on a plane and left the troops here to fend for ourselves. Heck, the troops were up at the Legislature fighting while the general was in a plush hotel in Washington. Speaking of Washington, Kilili can open more doors and do far more than the commissioner could ever do in Washington and there was no need for her to leave and beg for PSS when we have Kilili there to do it for us and to make it worse she took other people with her. What a joke on the stakeholders.

Remi is obviously starting to smell the stink of PSS when she said, "I bet there's a lot of things going around at PSS and not being exposed to the public due to employees being scared of losing their

*Queen Mary II* came with some 4,000 wealthy passengers, most of whom are senior citizens. It was met with some eight-foot waves immediately outside the harbor. It made the transfer of passengers to smaller boats a dangerous thing. It was a good decision on the part of the captain, protecting his clientele and investors from any costly ill-fated decision. It's the nature of our weather at this time of year so blame no one for what has

happened. Next? Expand and dredge the Tanapag Harbor a bit more. *Queen Mary II* made our harbor so small, *di ba?* Or is tourism from cruise ships an issue we never planned for?

■ ■ ■

The visit of *Queen Mary II* reawakened the need to explore the small cottage industry, at least for one of the islands up north. They can be built around the upper and lower lakes.

### By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). His column runs every Friday.



and I actually know someone on Saipan doing just that successfully on a small scale, but I honored the request not to write about it.

I've penciled-out various scenarios for walking vs. driving, and, for me, it would save all of \$1.67 in gasoline for every hour of walking I did. It's not up to me to tell someone how to value their time, but I value mine at more than \$1.67 an hour. So I'll buy the gas. Double the price? I'm still buying. Triple? Quadruple? Keep going? Buy, and buy, and buy. Go ahead, run some numbers of your own. You'll see. That's the scary thing about gas prices: Even when they get really high, they pencil-out anyway, which is why the market can sustain such high prices.

Anyway, I don't see any use in getting angry at vague economic factors such as gas prices. I just make my choices when I have to make them, and that's all I can do, spending my money the best way I can.

So in the meantime, I'm going to stay in my lawn chair and swat flies, and if you want to have another cold one, well, it's fine with me, since it's cheaper than driving.

### By AMBROSE M. BENNETT

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett is a retired Public School System teacher and a former Board of Education member.



*job and I don't blame them.*" It would have certainly created a big stink when I was forced to retire from Kagman because the principal didn't like me and was threatening not to renew my contract but I didn't say anything because the commissioner gave me a job at the JDU just so I wouldn't complain publicly or, should I say, to keep the stink down. But the good part about a stink, sooner or later it gets so bad and loud that everyone can smell it and then something is done. The old *not-until-we-have-to* attitude that one of my daughters says is the attitude of our leaders and she is so right. They can't even fool our children, which is why I'm so glad the next generation *will not* make these same mistakes of no accountability in education.

As for *the criminal activities and the financial status of PSS*, I must offer another big amen, Remi. The lack of genuine accountability allows the things she described to take place. The inability of the commissioner to be a real leader, especially in the business aspect of running the school system, is why there must be a change at the helm of the school system. The school system has been managed but hasn't been led anywhere. PSS is now going backwards with overcrowded classes, disputes ending up in the Legislature, and lights being turned off because the commissioner was nonfunctioning and nowhere to be found. I believe the commissioner cares and is trying her best but when it is something good at PSS she is in the middle of the picture but when there is a challenge and real work needs to be done, she is nowhere around! I tried to support the present COE as I believe in being objective and giving everyone a fair chance to prove themselves. I believe in the philosophy of one of my professors who taught me about leadership: "You must give a professional enough rope to be productive or to hang themselves with" and it is clear the commissioner has hung herself figuratively.

P.S.: The commissioner allowed my forced retirement from Kagman High and hired a sub to take my place, so what does that say about Students' First when your child lost a Highly Qualified Teacher for a sub who was not highly qualified? This is a real life example of how our schools are really run, which more than substantiates Remi's claim of fear by PSS employees and the unknown horror stories kept secret at PSS.

## CASINO

From Page 10

significantly over the next five to 10 years? I doubt and not after a super economic storm pummeled everything we know in investments. It's gone and brace for more shocks up ahead.






■ ■ ■

Those on top would benefit from the natural hot springs from the crater in the lake. Plan out other diversified activities for visitors. Just a thought to expand the planning process in stretching local horizon beyond conventional tourism so we make the best of what these pristine tropical isles could offer. I know of places in the Caribbean where cottages are booked six months to a year in advance.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲90 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼78

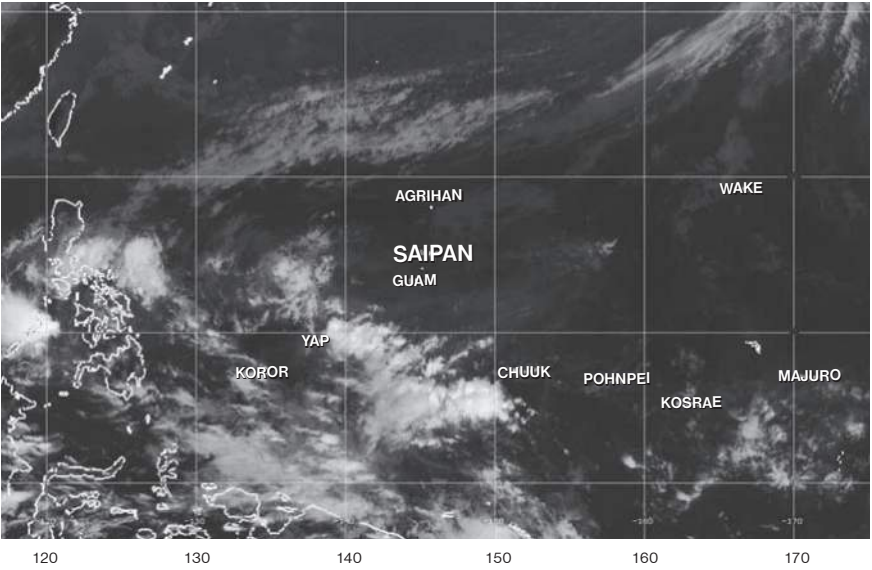
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲67 ▼60
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼36
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲74 ▼65
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲78 ▼70
London	Showers	▲57 ▼44
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲67 ▼51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲78 ▼58
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲80 ▼69
New York	Showers	▲64 ▼45
Osaka	Showers	▲58 ▼45
Paris	Showers	▲62 ▼46
Pusan	Showers	▲56 ▼40
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼49
Salem	Showers	▲53 ▼42
San Francisco	Showers	▲59 ▼50
Seoul	Showers	▲47 ▼35
Tokyo	Showers	▲59 ▼47
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼51

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
9:02 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
3:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	
9:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough stretches from 5N130E to EQ148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are located between the equator and 5N from 130E to 141E. Low-level convergence north of the trough is producing a thin band of scattered showers 100 miles either side of a line that stretches from 11N130E to near Palau to 5N137E and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Yap and Chuuk between 3N and 10N from 141E to 151E. A weak surface trough is producing scattered showers near Majuro between 3N and 8N from 167E to 175E. A shear line extends from near 25N158E to 21N145E to 21N130E. Low clouds and showers could be found along and up to 200 miles north of the boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is generating low clouds and showers west of the Marianas between 12N and 17N from 131E and 139E. A second trade-wind disturbance east of the Marianas is associated with low clouds and showers between 13N and 16N from 149E to 158E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:20 AM	6:57 PM
Saturday	6:58 AM	7:45 PM
Sunday	7:37 AM	8:34 PM
Monday	8:19 AM	9:23 PM
Tuesday	9:02 AM	10:13 PM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)

## Letters to the Editor

### We also want be free

A while back, an article on the newspaper appeared stating in general that Article 12, the land alienation provision of our Constitution does not impact our economy. Instead, there were world events that affected our economy.

First, I am in full agreement that our economy on this small island in our universe is indeed affected by world events. I do not agree, however, that Article 12 is not a factor in our economy.

When Article 12 was put in place, the Internet was not around. The spread of words and events was slow and limited. In other words, the world has changed and changed dramatically. No one is isolated nor can one isolate himself or herself.

There are signs around us that I feel that if Article 12 was not a hindrance, businesses in different forms would have developed. I am talking about the many empty big buildings that used to be garment factories. They could all be turned into storage of goods, making Saipan a warehouse center for goods out of Asia to the USA and from USA to Asia. We are under the U.S. flag and laws; a very positive item for businesses especially for large and overseas corporations.

Yet, to my knowledge, all of these buildings are vacant and deteriorating. Why? I venture to say that it is because it is only a 55-year lease as permitted by Article 12. At this point in time, there may only be 20 years or less remaining on the 55-year lease term. No reputable com-

pany or long-term investor would want to carry over the remainder of the lease term under a term and condition that he or she did not participate in or negotiate.

At one time, we are eligible to participate in the Federal Housing Administration single-family mortgage insurance programs and the foreclosure prevention program such as Hope for Homeowners and Making Home Affordable. This was stopped due to the provisions under Article 12. We learned about this from a memo received by our congressional representative, Gregorio Sablan, from the Congressional Research Service dated Oct. 15, 2009. This particular memorandum is seven pages long and can be obtained at the JP Center, ground floor, on Beach Road, Garapan.

The applicable portion of the memo reads: "by restricting who can acquire property in the CNMI, this clause (Article 12, Section 1 inserted here for clarity) could directly pose two problems related to FHA insurance. First, it could prevent HUD from taking title to the property in the event of default or foreclosure..."

"The second potential problem is that even if HUD did take title to the foreclosed property, the restrictions on who can acquire real property in the CNMI could limit FHA's options in terms of selling the property in order to recoup its loss."

There are major concerns about conveyance restriction that is imposed by Article 12. Many families could and would qualify for a loan to start their

new house and be independent of their parents instead of being landless and homeless. We cannot even use land as collateral due to no one being able to insure land title for lending institutions to safeguard their investments. Article 12 issues are excluded from any land title coverage.

Abolishing Article 12 will not force anyone to sell his or her land. It will, however, give you total and complete ownership of your property. Our culture will not disappear because one is landless. Our culture is not tied to the land.

We talk about investors. We need to figure out what investors want and need. The days of the early '80s and mid-'90s are gone and will never come back. The world has changed. We are but a very small place competing with other places with many more resources and people. There is a possibility that our island population will decline to no more than 38,000. What economy can be sustained with this level of population? Yet, the cost of essential items will be higher due to fixed costs. We have read in the paper that CUC needs to increase power rates to make up for the dramatic drop in power consumption. I do not think this is from people saving energy as much as from people leaving the island.

Where do we go? Perhaps we need to embrace changes and the fact that we need to be a part of the world community. We can still keep our culture but we also want be free.

**Efrain F. Camacho**  
Navy Hill, Saipan

### Let's not be greedy

I understand some of the sentiments surrounding Article 12. Some oppose its repeal and some want it repealed. I want Article 12 repealed. Why? First we should look at ourselves in the mirror and ask: Who are we? Where did we come from and, is this land ours forever or should we share it with others? Many of us are no different from the Europeans who entered the Americas. Atalig, Mendiola, Blanco, Calvo, Camacho, Manglona, Dela Cruz, Torres, Pangelinan, Cabrera and many other last names. Where did you come from? I found out just recently that I came from the Philippines, perhaps with Spanish blood and Filipino blood. We call ourselves Chamorro. How about the Carolinians? Where did they come from? You should get my point by now. Indigenous of the CNMI. Let's not be greedy, share this earth with our brothers and sisters of this earth. Let's welcome them and celebrate humanity instead of greed. I do not endorse the "mind, mind, mind" attitude.

**Frank Atalig**  
Sinapalo Rota

### CNMI Anthem

My daughter, who speaks fluent German, told me a few days ago that the melody of the CNMI Anthem is very similar to a German folk music called *Im Schoensten Wisengrude*. In fact it is and if you Google this music, one would find several versions of it in German.

She translated this music to English and it turns out that there is close meaning of the lyrics to the CNMI Anthem. This song is called:

"In the most beautiful meadow valley"

*In the most beautiful valley  
there is my home.  
I went there many times.  
I greet thee my beautiful  
and quite valley a thousand times!  
I went there many times.*

*If I had to leave this valley  
and its delight and tone,  
this would be my last journey.  
I greet thee a thousand times my quiet valley.*

*If I die I want to be buried in this valley.  
Then people shall sing in the evening's sunset:  
I greet thee my valley for the last time.*

I thought your readers would be interested in this, so that they would have an idea how our CNMI Anthem evolved over the years.

**Francisco R. Agulto**  
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

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## COURT SCHEDULE IN APRIL

With the limited financial resources provided to the Judiciary in this year's budget, the CNMI Judicial Council has adopted the measures to implement a reduction of personnel work hours and courthouse hours of operation. In April the courthouses on all three islands will be open with full operations except as noted below.

### SAIPAN

■ Closed on Friday, April 6, 2012, for Good Friday

■ Limited operation on Friday, April 20, 2012. On days of limited operations, only essential services of the Office of the Clerk of Court, the Office of Adult Probation Services, the Family Court Division, the Marshal Service Division, and Judicial Chambers will be provided. Courts will address certain dock-

et requirements, emergency and related prescheduled matters.

### ROTA

■ Closed on Friday, April 6, 2012, for Good Friday

### TINIAN

■ Closed on Monday, April 23, 2012

The CNMI Judicial Council considers its hours of operation on a month-to-month basis. It will meet again on April 11, 2012. The hours of operation for May will be publicized after the meeting on the CNMI Judiciary website, <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Clerk of Court's office phone number, 236-9765 on Saipan, 433-3410 on Tinian and 532-9422 Rota, or by contacting the Supreme Court's Public Information Office at 236-9716. (CNMI Judiciary)

## RED CROSS HEROES

Name: JUAN LIZAMA

Occupation: VICE PRESIDENT/SAIPAN AREA MANAGER

Organization you work for: FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK

Year's serving at that organization: TEN YEARS



Lizama was introduced to the American Red Cross in 2003 by a friend. For the last nine years, Lizama has been a board member, providing assistance to the NMI Chapter in his field of expertise. "At first I did not know what Red Cross did...until I became a volunteer," Lizama said. He enjoys the work he does for ARC, especially during operations like natural disasters or fundraising events, he added. "Being a volunteer means being committed to helping the community," Lizama said. During his time with the Red Cross, Lizama has co-chaired several successful fundraising events. After serving three consecutive terms, Lizama will be stepping down as a board member. "The Red Cross is an amazing organization that is full of opportunities for people looking to better themselves."

For more information on volunteering opportunities, contact the NMI Chapter at 670-234-3459 or visit [www.Redcross.org](http://www.Redcross.org).

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Wishing a happy birthday to our beautiful and wonderful granddaughter, K'illani Ngeskebei, who's celebrating her first birthday today, March 23! As you grow up may the good Lord continue to bless and guide you. We love you always! Hugs and kisses come from your Grandma Linda, Grandpa Dennis, Daddy Peter, Mommy Karen, Auntie Daisy (Guam), and all of the families that love you too.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 12th birthday to Athena Jaycee aka "AJ." We love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 28th birthday to Benjamin Petersburg! From your family, friends, and bride to be! Love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Christopher Sablan! We love you! Enjoy your day and may you have many more to come. Love always, Tasia, Vinae, Liyah, Naish, JR, and your entire family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings and best wishes go out to Victoria S. Bellas! We love you and miss you so much. Enjoy and may you have many more birthdays to come. Love always, your Kilili family!

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KIA	STOCK #	Color	Discount	FORD	STOCK #	Color	Discount
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The summary of essential job functions is as follows:

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Additional duties may be added as required by the operational needs of Saipan Air. As Flight Attendants represent Saipan Air to our customers, applicants are expected to have specific qualifications and meet certain requirements:

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- Ability to accept personal responsibility for resolving concerns
- Strong work ethic
- Good service orientation
- Excellent communication skills
- Friendly and polite in all situations
- Ability to handle pressure in stressful situations
- Physical agility and strength for assisting customers and their luggage

Additional job requirements:

- Minimum height of 5'0" and maximum height of 6'3" without shoes
- Height and weight proportionate to maintain professional appearance; body size cannot exceed specific aircraft dimensions (example: jump seat, harness without modification, cabin aisle and emergency exits)
- Vision correctable to 20/40 or better (uncorrected 20/200 or better)
- Push and pull beverage/meal cart (150-250 pounds)
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- Lift emergency window exit (up to 60 pounds)
- Open emergency door (91-126 pounds stress)

Employment will be contingent upon successful completion of a six to eight-week training program and a post-job offer examination. The FAA requires a drug screening for Flight Attendant applicants. Saipan Air requires employees to submit to drug/alcohol testing randomly throughout their employment. Employment is contingent upon a cleared drug screen according to FAA and Saipan Air standards.

If you meet the above-mentioned qualifications and the employment conditions are acceptable to you, please send your resume to [hrdsaipanair@tanholdings.com](mailto:hrdsaipanair@tanholdings.com). Application forms can be obtained at the Job Fair on March 23, 2012 at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan. Early submission of application documents is highly encouraged.



Saipan Air is an Equal Opportunity Employer

# 100 flame tree saplings planted along Beach Road

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Years from now, a portion of Beach Road from the Morgen

Building in Oleai up to the Civic Center in Susupe will be a glorious sight when 100 flame tree saplings planted by Tan Holdings executives last Tuesday mature

and start to bloom.

The tree planting project, held to mark the corporation's 40th anniversary of doing business on the islands this year, is the first of a se-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Executives of Tan Holdings pick up a flame tree sapling during the tree planting initiative celebrating the company's 40 years of doing business in the Marianas last Tuesday. A total of 100 flame trees were planted along Beach Road across from Morgen Building in Oleai up to Civic Center in Susupe.

ries of initiatives of Tan Holdings, which aims to plant a total of 400 flame trees in 2012.

President and chief operating officer Jerry Tan led over 40 officials, managers, and business unit heads who volunteered their time and energy to plant the flame tree saplings.

Wearing their blue "iServe, iGiveback" anniversary vests, company executives each held a sapling or two as they made their way to the holes that had been dug out by employees of Realty Management Services and representatives of participating government agencies.

Tuesday's event was a collaborative effort of Tan Holdings with the non-profit group Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, the Division of Environmental Quality, and Coastal Resources Management, which provided the saplings, fertilizers, and gar-

dening tools.

In his remarks, Tan said that flame trees are among his favorite things about living on island. He said flame trees, especially during its blooming season, make Saipan beautiful and set it apart from other places, including Guam.

Citing the recently released CNMI tourism master plan, Tan said tourists come back for more of Saipan because of its remarkable natural beauty. "Our flame trees are really something that makes our destination different and better," said Tan, adding that taking care of these fiery orange trees will also help improve the island's economy.

Tan pointed out that the flame trees the public see today were not planted recently but took years to develop. "I feel that in order for us to continue to have the beautiful flame trees, I think it's important that we start plant-

ing them so that years later, our next generation can enjoy what we're enjoying today," Tan told *Saipan Tribune*. "As we plant each tree, not only do we make our island more beautiful but we actually allow the community to have a healthy environment."

Corporate consultant David M. Sablan recounted that it was a local architect, Joaquin Kaipat, who came up with the idea of planting flame trees along the island's main thoroughfares, with Susupe as the first area to be planted with what has become one of Saipan's distinctive features.

"I think it's important that we continue to plant trees," said Sablan, as he urged the public to adopt Singapore's policy wherein for every tree that's cut down, three more trees should be planted.

Before the start of the tree planting activity, Tan Holdings, through its charitable arm, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, presented MINA with a \$500 donation as "a little token" for its valuable partnership in the company's green endeavors.

MINA board chair Herminia Fusco, who accepted the donation, said their organization values the collaboration and support of Tan Holdings, which has numerous worthwhile projects that promote and protect the environment.

"For us to really attract more tourists to the island, we have to show our assets and one of the ways really is projecting a beautiful island—a paradise," she said.

Fusco called on other companies to support the environment, help improve the overall quality of life in the Marianas, and make it a better place to live in.

Tan Holdings vice president Lina Dimaano, who is also a board member of MINA, reminded the public to look after the newly planted saplings, which have been marked with flags in different colors.

"This is an effort of the company but we also need the community to help out by being aware of these trees. We ask that you do not step on them or trample them so that they can grow. Help us spread the word around," she said.



## NOTICE OF MEETING /CELEBRATION

The Covenant Party of the Northern Mariana Islands is inviting all party members and interested individuals for a general membership meeting on Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, Civic Center, Susupe. The meeting will commence at 10:30AM followed by lunch. In addition, we will celebrate Covenant Day. Activities for children and families will be provided. Please come and join us on this significant occasion.

Thank You  
**si Gregorio M. Camacho, Chairman**

*Paid for by the Covenant Party Treasure Emma Villagomez.*



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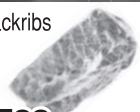















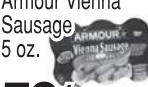





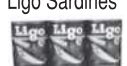























































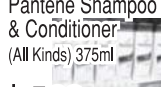








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<div>Diamond G Rice</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$27<sup>99</sup></div><div>50 LBS.</div><div>\$13<sup>99</sup></div><div>20 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Lotus Rice</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$25<sup>99</sup></div><div>50 LBS.</div></div>	<div>King Choice Vegetable Oil 2L.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>2 for \$9<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Spam Black Pepper</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>LIMIT 6</div></div>	<div>Bacon</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>29</sup></div></div>	<div>Vega Shrimp</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>59</sup></div><div>LIMIT 2</div></div>	<div>Bar S Jumbo Franks</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>19</sup></div><div>/PKG</div></div>	<div>U.S. Eggs XL</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>29</sup></div><div>/DOZ.</div></div>	<div>Butane Gas</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>75</sup></div><div>/PACK</div><div>\$22<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>				
<div>Chicken Leg Quarter</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 1</div><div>\$26<sup>99</sup></div><div>\$19<sup>99</sup></div><div>22 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Whole Chicken</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$37<sup>99</sup></div><div>30 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Baby Ribs</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 2</div><div>\$22<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Spareribs</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 2</div><div>\$21<sup>99</sup></div><div>20 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Milkfish</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>59</sup></div><div>/LB.</div></div> <div>Tilapia</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div><div>/LB.</div></div>	<div>Similac/Enfamil</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$15<sup>99</sup></div><div>12.5 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Promil</div> <div></div> <div><div>Ages 4 Up</div><div>1.8 KG.</div><div>\$25<sup>99</sup></div></div> <div>Ages 1 to 3 1.8 KG.</div> <div><div>\$27<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Anchor Milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>2.5Kg.</div><div>\$28<sup>99</sup></div></div> <div>Gain Plus</div> <div></div> <div><div>1.8 KG.</div><div>\$29<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Green Mussels</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div></div>				
<div>Chicken Wings</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$11<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Banquet Sausage Links</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>79</sup></div><div>7 OZ.</div><div>All Flavors</div></div>	<div>Gusto Ham</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$18<sup>99</sup></div><div>10 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Ground Beef</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$10<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Beef Backribs</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$27<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Squid</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>BOX</div></div>	<div>Seaport Imitation Crab Stick</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Hotlinks Sausage</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Carrots</div> <div></div> <div><div>99¢</div><div>/BAG</div></div>				
<div>Ichiban</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$10<sup>95</sup></div><div>/BOX</div></div>	<div>Royal Spaghetti</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>39</sup></div></div>	<div>Rice Stick</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>19</sup></div><div>/8 OZ.</div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>/16 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Flour Stick</div> <div></div> <div><div>99¢</div><div>/8 OZ.</div><div>\$1<sup>89</sup></div><div>/16 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Cabbage</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div><div>/LB.</div></div>	<div>Garlic</div> <div></div> <div><div>99¢</div><div>/PACK</div></div>	<div>Potato (Jumbo)</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div><div>/LB.</div></div>	<div>Orange</div> <div></div> <div><div>99¢</div><div>/LB.</div></div>	<div>Apple Cello</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>/PACK</div></div>				
<div>Spam (All Flavors)</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>39</sup></div><div>LIMIT 6</div></div>	<div>Hormel Corned Beef Hash</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Ox &amp; Palm Corned Beef</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Black Label</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>79</sup></div></div>	<div>Libby's Vienna Sausage</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div><div>9oz</div></div>	<div>Armour Vienna Sausage</div> <div></div> <div><div>59¢</div><div>each</div></div>	<div>Ace Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div></div>	<div>Bumblebee Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div></div>	<div>Sunflower Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div></div>	<div>Coco Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div></div>	<div>Master A1 Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div></div>	<div>Ligo Sardines</div> <div></div> <div><div>3 for \$1<sup>00</sup></div></div>	
<div>Kimchee Base</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>450G</div></div>	<div>Hormel Chili No Beans</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>79</sup></div></div>	<div>Hunts Pork &amp; Beans</div> <div></div> <div><div>BUY 1 GET 1 FREE</div><div>99¢</div><div>390g</div></div>	<div>Dinty Moore Beef Stew</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>69</sup></div></div>	<div>DelMonte Whole Kernel Corn</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div></div>	<div>Kikkoman</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 2</div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>1.6 L</div></div>	<div>Vlassic Dill Pickles Sliced</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Lemon Powder</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Gold Medal Flour</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Maseka Flour</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Korean Flour</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Corn Starch</div> <div></div> <div><div>99¢</div><div>1 LB.</div></div>	
<div>Salt</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div></div>	<div>Crisco Pure Vegetable Oil</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$10<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>AVO White Distilled Vinegar</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>1 GALLON</div></div>	<div>Salad Oil</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$29<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 GALLON/TN</div><div>\$32<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 GALLON/BOX</div></div>	<div>Sugar</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>49</sup></div><div>1 KG.</div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>2 KG.</div></div>	<div>Best Food Mayonnaise 64 OZ.</div> <div></div> <div><div>REG. \$10<sup>99</sup></div><div>NOW \$7<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Real Fresh Milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$21<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Foremost Milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$20<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Anchor Reg. Milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$18<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Anchor milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$18<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Carnation Evap Milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>19</sup></div><div>FROM U.S.</div><div>89¢</div><div>FROM PHILIPPINES</div></div>	<div>Coffee Mate</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Maxwell House Coffee Mix</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>20 STICKS</div><div>\$7<sup>99</sup></div><div>/100 STICKS</div></div>
<div>Kato Juice</div> <div></div> <div><div>2 \$1<sup>00</sup></div><div>for \$7<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Chamorro Punch</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>BOTTLE</div></div>	<div>Nestea Iced Tea Mix</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Kool Aid</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Tang</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Exo Assam Black Tea in Can</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Magnolia Juice Mix</div> <div></div> <div><div>2 for \$3<sup>00</sup></div></div>	<div>Fiesta Spaghetti Sweet Blend Sauce 500g.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>79</sup></div></div>	<div>Sarsi Soft Drinks</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$15<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Fita/Skylakes/Sunflower Crackers</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>850 G.</div></div>	<div>Folgers Coffee</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$11<sup>99</sup></div><div>39 OZ.</div></div>		
<div>Magnolia Water</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Wilkins</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>6000 ML.</div></div>	<div>Saipan Ice 500ml. 20 Bottles</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Sunkist Juice</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Ritz Cola</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$12<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Springfield Cola</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$10<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Coke (All Flavors)</div> <div></div> <div><div>WARM ONLY</div><div>\$14<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>San Miguel Beer Light/Pale Pilsen Can</div> <div></div> <div><div>WARM ONLY</div><div>\$21<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>San Miguel Beer Bottled</div> <div></div> <div><div>WARM ONLY</div><div>\$23<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Red Horse Beer 1000 ML.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$14<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Milwaukee's Premium Beer</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$18<sup>50</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>		
<div>Gain Powder</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 2</div><div>\$17<sup>99</sup></div><div>120 LOADS</div></div>	<div>Gain Liquid Detergent (All Kinds)</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>50 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Purex Laundry Soap</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Joy Dish.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>90 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Dawn Dish.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$7<sup>99</sup></div><div>90 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Luv's Big Box (All Sizes)</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$17<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Mega Drypers (All Sizes)</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$14<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Silky Baby Wipes</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>39</sup></div></div>	<div>Charmin Regular</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>24 ROLLS</div></div>	<div>Bounty Paper Towel SELECT A SIZE</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$18<sup>99</sup></div><div>15 ROLLS</div></div>	<div>Huggies Snug &amp; Dry BOX 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$19<sup>99</sup></div></div>		
<div>Tide Detergent</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>2.8 KG.</div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 KG.</div></div>	<div>Colgate Regular 150ml</div> <div></div> <div><div>2 for \$3<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Pantene Shampoo &amp; Conditioner (All Kinds) 375ml</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div><div>EACH</div></div>	<div>Head &amp; Shoulders (All Kinds) 420ml</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div><div>EACH</div></div>	<div>Palmolive Shampoo &amp; Conditioner</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>EACH</div></div>	<div>Diamond Foil</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>200 sq.ft.</div></div>	<div>Axxion Foam Plates 125 CT</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$7<sup>99</sup></div><div>LIMIT 1</div></div>	<div>Gillete Fusion 4 Cartridges 4 Cartouches</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$16<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Clorox</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>29</sup></div><div>90oz.</div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>1.42 Gal.</div></div>	<div>Prize Dog Food 20 LBS.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$19<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>1 Burner Gas Stove</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$11<sup>99</sup></div></div>		

*...the places where you can buy goods at affordable and low prices...*

# Young entrepreneurs to showcase products at trade fair

Young entrepreneurs from all five CNMI public high schools (including Rota and Tinian) are inviting all community members to a trade fair where the student companies will be showcasing a wide variety of student-designed products for sale.

The trade fair, which will take place next Thursday, March 29, 2012 (6pm to 9pm), at the Thursday Night Street Market, is part of a series of

activities sponsored by the Junior Achievement Program, which was relaunched last year through a collaboration between the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Public School System with support from the Northern Marianas College.

The JA Company Program helps prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively man-

age it, how to create jobs which make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace.

"More than any other program, the JA Program allows students to gain first-hand experience in establishing, running, and promoting a business," said Gal-

vin Deleon Guerrero, member of the Board of Education and director of Institutional Effectiveness at the Northern Marianas College.

"For the several weeks now, these students have been hard at work in making sure their companies—and their products—stand out at next week's trade fair."



The student companies, composed of students from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr/Sr High School (Rota), and Tinian Jr/Sr High School, have been working with community and business leaders who have been volunteering their time to guide the students as they create and market different products.

The students' activities and efforts will culminate during a

banquet where student companies will be recognized with a number of JA awards, including product of the year, company officers of the year, and company of the year.

For more information about the CNMI JA Company Program, and to see how you can support the program, contact Frances Ulloa at frances.ulloa@cnmipss.org or Galvin Deleon Guerrero at galvin@itecni.com. (NMC)

## USDA warns of fraudulent letters

WASHINGTON—U.S. Department of Agriculture officials learned late Friday afternoon, March 16, that fraudulent letters are being

sent by fax to individuals and businesses in at least four states.

The letters purportedly come from a USDA procure-

ment officer and seek personal information. These letters are false and in no case should a recipient respond with personal and financial

information. The fraudulent letters bear USDA's logo and seal and are signed by an individual identified as "Frank Rutenberg" using

a title of "Senior Procurement Officer."

Letters have been received by fax in Alabama, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, but may have also been sent to other states. Recipients should not respond and should not supply the re-

quested information. USDA is investigating this matter through the Office of the Inspector General. If you suspect you have received such a letter or have questions, contact USDA at: procurement.policy@dm.usda.gov or call 202-720-9448. (USDA)



## DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES



### April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

### Some Facts About Child Sexual Abuse:

- It is estimated that 50-80% of all children sexually assaulted are perpetrated by an adult known and trusted by the child. Only a small percentage of perpetrators fit the stereotypes of the stranger.
- We may not yet know the full extent of sexual assault against boys because of their tendency to not report. Research estimates that 1 out of 3-4 girls and 1 out of 4-6 boys will be sexually assaulted before their 18th birthday.
- The child is always the victim. The responsibility for the abuse lies solely with the adult. In the case of child sexual abuse, many offenders try to shift the blame for their action by accusing the child of being seductive or promiscuous.

## Because Kids Don't Come With Instructions...

## Let's Make Parenting FUN!

When: March 31, April 5, 12, 19, 26 & May 3, 2012

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm • Where: Youth Center

For more information call: 287-3268 or 433-6842/0649 (Tinian)

## FREE GAS!

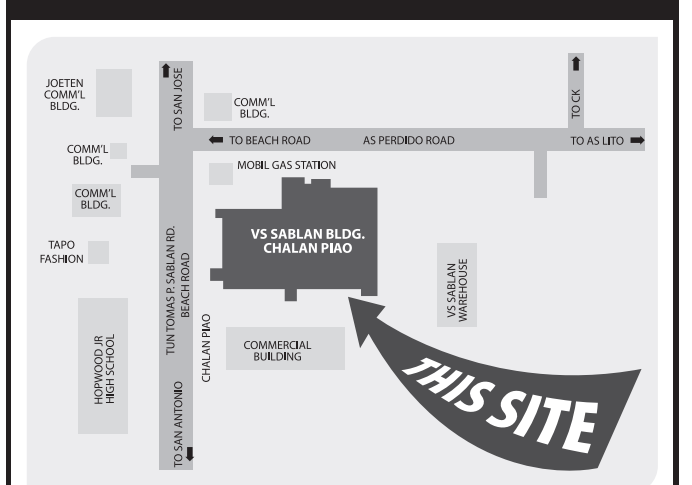
### SIGN-UP...

✓ As a VOLUNTEER for youth activities! Call Alex Olopai or Abner Venus at 664-2599/287-2553.

### CALL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT:

664-2563/2565 ON SAIPAN  
532-9393 ON ROTA  
433-2950 ON TINIAN

## Sablan Enterprises, Inc dba SABLON REALTY



With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose

### VS Sablan Mall Indoor Bazaar in Chalan Piao

Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM  
Checkout **OUR INDOOR BAZAAR VENDORS.**  
They Have what you need at the Right Price.  
Beautiful Orchids from \$20.00 to \$25.00.

Check out Our **BARGAIN CENTER**  
Many good products from 25 cents to \$1.00

**Also available:** Household Goods, Nick Nacks, Vases, Table Clothes, Toys, School Supplies, Men's, Women's, & Children's Clothing, Shoes & Sandals, Fashion Accessories – Bracelets, Earrings, Necklaces, Wallets, Handbags, Purses, Watches, Perfumes, Colognes, Lotions.

For the Health Conscious – Anti Stress **QUANTUM** Rings, Necklace, and Watches for Sale. Energy Stone Bracelets also available.

At **Melanie's Gift Shop** – Dublin Crystal Sets Reg \$60.00 now only \$45.00 Martha Stewart Roaster Reg \$29.95 Now \$19.95 Magic Bullet Blender / Mixer 17 pc set Only \$64.95. Skecher Shoes 30% off

**Morning Glory** has Moved to VSS Plaza – Gift Wrapping Accessories, Giveaways for all Occasions, Materials to make Mwar Mwar, Car Stickers with Many Local Themes and Designs

Check out **Maegan's Beauty Salon & Michael's Boutique** – Personal Grooming Center plus Women's Clothing with the Modern look.

**Sablan Building Chalan Kanoa**—Home of **Pena House Boutique** & the **Bank of Saipan**

**SABLON REALTY** invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations. **Maintenance Free. Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.**

**Commercial Space Rent** at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings. 2nd Floor units Available at San Jose for **50 Cents per Square Foot**. At Our Chalan Piao Building, we have rental space available on the **first floor** starting at **75 cents per square foot** ranging for units ranging from 700 sq ft to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at 50 cents per square foot.

**2nd Floor Apartment for Rent** at our Chalan Kanoa Annex Location – 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath, 600 sq ft, Newly Refurbished (New Tiles, Paint, Great Floor Plan), Semi Furnished with New Refrigerator & Tabletop 2 Burner Gas Range (Save on Power). Wall Fans Installed in each Room. Must see to Appreciate **REDUCED RENT at \$335.00** per Month plus Utilities.

**3rd Floor Apartment for Rent** at our Chalan Piao Location – 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Bath, Semi-Furnished with Refrigerator & Stove, 1470 sq ft, Save on Power – Great Breeze thru the Apartment. No Need Air Conditioning. **\$550 per month plus Utilities**

**For Lease** – 53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla. Ocean View. 31 years Remaining on Lease. Asking 10.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

**Warehouse for Lease** – 6750 Square Feet with Storage Yard Fenced in Totaling 2000 Square meters. Located at our Chalan Piao Location. Asking \$2700.00 per Month.

Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: [plebechamp80@gmail.com](mailto:plebechamp80@gmail.com)) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-9285 Email Address: [vicente\\_sablan@yahoo.com](mailto:vicente_sablan@yahoo.com)) or Call 234-2585.

# Public comments sought for CNMI Scholarship rules and regs

The CNMI Scholarship Advisory Board is seeking public comments on the proposed regulations governing the CNMI Scholarship Educational Assistance Program, effective for the fall 2012 semester.

These amendments have been duly promulgated and comments are being accepted by the SAB prior to adoption as permanent. These proposed amendments affect new, ongoing, and returning students in several ways, and include:

1. Limit scholarship assistance for new undergraduate applicants to those who are enrolled at the Northern Marianas College or have already obtained an associate's degree and are enrolled at an accredited institution;

2. Enables scholarship assis-

tance for participants in NMC's Early Admissions Program;

3. Increase the minimum CGPA for satisfactory academic progress from 2.25 to 2.75;

4. Authorizes the scholarship advisory board, in its discretion, to extend the duration of an award.

Interested persons may request a copy of the proposed regulation via e-mail [cnmisab@cnmischolarship.com](mailto:cnmisab@cnmischolarship.com) and/or visit the CNMI Scholarship website at [www.cnmicholarship.com](http://www.cnmicholarship.com).

Comments must be received by the board no later than March 30, 2012. You may submit your comments to the CNMI Scholarship Office via regular mail, drop off, fax, or e-mail.

For more information, call 664-4750. **(PR)**



## FOOD SAMPLING

Board of Education chair Marylou Ada poses with Kagman High School Culinary Arts students at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe after an NBK Food Sampling Event where they prepared various dishes using Ace of Diamonds Tuna.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## CULTURAL CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Rota Chamorro Village Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians to learn a Carolinian dance. The lesson will be from 1pm to 4pm at the DCCA compound this Saturday, March 24, 2012.

On Tinian, the Tinian Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making a spear gun for fishing, coconut weaving, and making leis this Saturday at the Tinian Senior Citizen Center Pavilion. The lessons will start at 9am. Bring your children so they too can learn the traditional ways of the Chamorros and Carolinians.

On Saipan, the Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters is offering free lessons to Chamorros and Carolinians on making

pounded breadfruit and coconut basket weaving this Saturday. The lessons start at 9:30am and are held at the Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Village Cultural Centers Headquarters at 1213 Capitol Hill Road, across from the Workforce Investment Agency and next to the Board of Parole Office.

All the above activities are offered by the Association of Native Medicine and Culture, in partnership with the Community and Cultural Affairs Office (Rota and Tinian), and the Indigenous Affairs Office (Saipan), and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 532-9350 on Rota and ask for Beck Kani; 433-9220 on Tinian and ask for Raymond Sablan; 322-0278 on Saipan.



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of two (2) groups: **Project 1** is existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications, and **Project 2** is a Design-Build of Restroom 1 in accordance with the Design/Build Concept Plans and Specifications. Bidders are reminded that the Construction Management (CM) team is not available for design services for Project 2.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOI  
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

March 6, 2012  
Date



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

### INVITATION TO BID ITB12-GOV-058

#### Phase III, Hardening and Renovation of the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building – Office of the Attorney General, Capitol Hill Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the **Hardening and Renovations of the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building – Office of the Attorney General, Capitol Hill Saipan**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at the Governor's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a **mandatory pre-bid Conference/Site Visit** for this project on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 9:00AM ChST at the project site, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST April 6, 2012 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB12-GOV-058"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 AM ChST April 24, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 AM ChST April 24, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 24, 2012 and must be received no later than May 03, 2012 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST May 4, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 11:00 AM ChST April 24, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must possess a certificate of authority to conduct business in the CNMI and certification that the value or its unencumbered assets (exclusive or all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the amount or each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is two hundred ten (210) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars (\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by two hundred ten (210) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Business

Court weighs US power over states in health case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress will help pay for your roads, but your state can’t lower its drinking age below 21. There’s federal money for colleges, but they can’t discriminate against women in the classroom or on the athletic field.

Federal cash comes with strings. Now 26 states are telling the Supreme Court that President Barack Obama’s health care law has stretched an old rule too far. The new law’s

requirements for expanding Medicaid amount, in their view, to coercion that violates the U.S. Constitution’s division of power between the national government and the states.

No lower court has sided with the state plaintiffs. But the justices have reserved time next Wednesday to hear the Medicaid issue as part of their broad review of challenges to the health care overhaul. And their decision could have im-

plications far beyond health—for federal aid for housing, law enforcement, education and transportation.

“It was such a surprise that the court decided to hear this,” said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a liberal advocacy group backing the law. If the plaintiffs prevail “it would not only invalidate the Medicaid expansion but place in jeopardy almost any federal program that creates conditions for the receipt of funds.”

Medicaid, the federal-state insurance program for low-income people, is a case study on the growing federal role in health care. Created in 1965 mainly to serve families in the old cash welfare program, it now covers more people than Medicare as a result of expansions usually initiated from Washington.

The more than 60 million Medicaid beneficiaries include one in four children, severely disabled people, many nursing home residents and low-income pregnant women. Trauma hospitals rely on Medicaid for critical funding, as do children’s hospitals. GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s expansion of health insurance when

he was governor of Massachusetts depended heavily on getting the federal government’s blessing to tap Medicaid funds.

Overall, the federal government pays about 60 percent of Medicaid costs, and states cover the rest. But the program’s scope and reach have turned it into one of the top state budget items, and the fact that Medicaid rolls swell when the economy tanks makes it especially tricky to handle for states required by their own constitutions to balance the books.

As if Medicaid weren’t complicated already, along came Obama’s health care overhaul. About half of the more than 30

million people expected to gain health coverage as a result of the overhaul will do so through Medicaid, most of them childless adults. Starting in 2014, the law effectively opens the program to anyone making up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$15,400 for an individual.


About half the states are saying: Enough is enough.

“Medicaid is no longer a partnership,” said Wisconsin health secretary Dennis G. Smith, who ran the program nationwide for former President George W. Bush. “When Washington says ‘You shall do this’ or your entire Medicaid program is at risk ...


that is flat-out coercion.”


The new health care law uses “blunt force,” said Smith, who was appointed by GOP Gov. Scott Walker. States are forced to carry out the expansion if they want to continue to participate in Medicaid. Refusal would jeopardize billions in federal funds.

The federal government did enact provisions to make the expansion less costly. Under the overhaul law, Washington will pick up the entire tab for newly eligible enrollees the first three years. Eventually the federal share will drop to 90 percent, still far more than Washington contributes for the rest of Medicaid.



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp  
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp





**NOTICE OF SALE  
UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**

**Anthony Francis A. Benavente and Arlene Tina Lee Benavente** (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 11, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 12, 2006, under Document No. 06-895 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

**LOT NO. 011 G 1155, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 900 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON DLS CHECK NO. 011 G. 23, DATED DECEMBER 09, 1993, RECORDED AT THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE AS FILE NO. 96-2566 ON OCTOBER 10, 1996 THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.**

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **April 17, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$49,007.87**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **April 16, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. **All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.**


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$49,007.87** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.


The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. **All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.**


Dated this 14th day of March, 2012.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Acting Corporate Director



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp  
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp





**NOTICE OF SALE  
UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST**

**Jose L. Castro and Margarita J. Castro** (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 22, 1980, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 22, 1980, under Document No. 11179 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

**LOT NUMBER 017 D 27, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 900 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 4842, ON THE 11TH DAY OF September, 1975.**

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **April 17, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$51,076.14**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **April 16, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. **All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.**


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$51,076.14** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.


The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. **All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.**


Dated this 14th day of March, 2012.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Acting Corporate Director



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**AUCTION NOTICES**

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:


<b>LOT NO.:</b>	<b>003 D 16</b>	<b>ADETTA ST., GARAPAN</b>	<b>MINIMUM BID :</b>	<b>\$ 90,000.00</b>
<b>LOT NO.:</b>	<b>011 G 308</b>	<b>CHOPAK DRIVE, KAGMAN III</b>	<b>MINIMUM BID :</b>	<b>\$ 43,619.36</b>
<b>LOT NO.:</b>	<b>010 K 05</b>	<b>MAGICIENNE BAY AVE., DAN DAN</b>	<b>MINIMUM BID :</b>	<b>\$ 42,219.36</b>
<b>LOT NO.:</b>	<b>21899-2</b>	<b>PILA DRIVE SADO G TASI</b>	<b>MINIMUM BID :</b>	<b>\$ 32,419.36</b>
<b>LOT NO.:</b>	<b>002 G 263</b>	<b>ATES DRIVE KAGMAN II</b>	<b>MINIMUM BID :</b>	<b>\$ 57,619.36</b>
<b>LOT NO.:</b>	<b>011 G 842</b>	<b>GAGU STR. KAGMAN</b>	<b>MINIMUM BID :</b>	<b>\$ 61,619.36</b>
<b>LOT NO.:</b>	<b>001 C 57</b>	<b>MORTAR LANE SAN ROQUE</b>	<b>MINIMUM BID :</b>	<b>\$ 68,230.00</b>
<b>LOT NO.:</b>	<b>003 B 16</b>	<b>CHAMOLINAN DRIVE, TANAPAG</b>	<b>MINIMUM BID :</b>	<b>\$ 48,519.36</b>

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on April 17, 2012, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property shall be \$(please see above).
- Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
  - To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
  - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
  - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
- Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
- Lease with Option to Purchase. NMHC gives notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following additional terms and conditions:
  - The Lease Price bid shall not be less than the listed Minimum Bid price.
  - An up-front payment of ten percent (10%) of the Lease Price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard).
  - The balance of the Lease Price shall accrue interest at six percent (6%) per annum.
  - Monthly payments of the Lease will be considered rental payments only and not installments toward purchase and shall not grant the lessee any equity or ownership interest in the property or be construed in any way to encumber NMHC's rights, title and interest in the property beyond the granting of a lease for a specific term of years.
  - Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be thirty (30) years.
  - A lease agreement will be given upon receipt of the up-front payment and shall include:
    - No alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of NMHC.
    - Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
    - Lessee responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
    - Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.
    - Failure to make a monthly payment grounds for termination and eviction.
    - Lease may, at the request of lessee, contain an Option to Purchase provision exercisable upon: (A) payment in full of the Lease Price; (B) the Lease not having been declared to be in default; and (C) payment of \$100.00 option consideration. If the option is properly exercised, a quitclaim deed will be given.
  - In the event of competing lease bids, greater weight will be given to the leasehold offer with the better price, shorter term and larger monthly payments.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2012.


/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation



**BUSINESS BRIEFS**

**National grocers stop buying 'pink slime' meat**

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)**—At least three national supermarket operators have decided to stop buying ground beef that contains the filler now known as “pink slime.” Federal regulators say the filler, known in the industry as “lean, finely textured beef,” meets food safety standards. But critics say the product could be unsafe and is an unappetizing example of industrialized food production. Supervalu Inc.—which operates stores under the Acme, Albertsons, Cub Foods, Farm Fresh, Hornbacher’s, Jewel-Osco, Lucky, Shaw’s/Star Market, Shop ’n Save and Shoppers Food & Pharmacy banners—said Wednesday that customer concern prompted it to stop carrying products containing the filler.



**McDonald's says CEO Jim Skinner retiring**

**OAK BROOK, Ill. (AP)**—McDonald's Corp. said Wednesday that CEO Jim Skinner will retire later this year, handing over the responsibility of running the world's largest burger chain to the company's president. Skinner, who has been CEO since 2004, will step on June 30 after 41 years with McDonald's. Donald Thompson, a 22-year McDonald's veteran who is responsible for global strategy and operations for its more than 33,000 McDonald's restaurants in 119 countries, will take over the helm the next day, the company said. Thompson, who has long been considered among the top candidates in line to succeed Skinner, will be the first African American to head McDonald's since it was founded in 1955.

Colin M. Thompson, Esq.  
Thompson Law Office, LLC  
2nd Floor, JET Building  
Middle Road, Gualo Rai  
PMB 917, Box 10001  
Saipan, MP 96950  
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Facsimile: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Plaintiffs

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS**

**ZENAIDA B. MANSAY,  
SHERA CELINE M.  
ABADILLA and SHAINA  
RUZEN M. ABADILLA,**  
Plaintiffs,

**vs**

**VICENTE N. CRUZ,**  
Defendant.

Civil  
Action  
No.  
10-0190

**SUMMONS**

TO: DEFENDANT, VICENTE N. CRUZ

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to appear and defend the claims presented in this Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you and deliver or mail a copy of your Responsive Pleading to the Plaintiff's counsel whose address is at Thompson Law Office, LLC, 2nd Floor JET Building, PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your Responsive Pleading.

Your Responsive Pleading to the Complaint should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, CNMI. It may be prepared and signed by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by electronic filing or by messenger or mail. It is not necessary to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to appear and defend in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the Court.

Dated this 29th day of June, 2010

/s/Clerk of Court

# Nation

## Army examining mental health programs

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Army inspector general is conducting a system-wide review of mental health facilities to determine whether psychiatrists overturned diagnoses of post-traumatic stress disorder to save money, a move that comes as the case of a U.S. soldier suspected of killing 16 Afghan civilians has brought fresh attention to the strains of war.

Army Secretary John McHugh told Congress on Wednesday that the service is trying to determine whether the change in diagnosis was isolated or a common practice. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who pressed McHugh at a committee hearing, said the forensic psychiatry unit at Madigan Army Medical Center on Joint Base

Lewis-McChord is being investigated for reversing diagnoses based on the expense of providing care and benefits to members of the military.

“Not only is it damaging for our soldiers, but it also really furthers the stigma for others that are—whether they’re deciding to seek help or not today,” Murray said.

Since 2007, more than 40 percent of the cases involving candidates for retirement had been overturned, according to statistics cited by Murray. Of the 1,680 patients screened at Madigan, more than 690 had been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. The psychiatric team reversed more than 290 of those diagnoses.

## Obama, GOP vie for upper hand on energy

**MALJAMAR, N.M. (AP)**— Wooing a nation of increasingly angry motorists, President Barack Obama and his Republican rivals are all plunging into gas-pump politics, seeking the upper hand as energy becomes a driving issue in the election campaign.

The president is defending his energy agenda this week, traveling Wednesday to a solar panel plant in Nevada and oil and gas fields in New Mexico and the site of a future oil pipeline in Oklahoma that the White House is promising to accelerate. At the same time, GOP opponents from front-runner Mitt Romney on down are vigorously accusing him of stifling domestic production and betting on foolhardy alternative energy methods over traditional oil drilling.

With gasoline reaching \$3.86 a gallon in the U.S. and appar-

ently heading higher, the public is impatient for Obama—or someone in his place—to do something about it.

In truth, a president has little direct control over gas prices, which have risen more than 50 cents a gallon since January in response to a standoff over Iran’s nuclear program that has threatened to disrupt Middle East oil supplies.

Well aware of Republicans’ criticism, Obama’s advisers argue that voters take a sophisticated view toward energy and think about it as a problem demanding long-term answers. They know that talk about future solutions may not satisfy people as they endure high prices, but they’re betting that voters will side with the candidate they trust the most to deal with the issue—and they’re determined that that will be Obama.

## Establishment starts to coalesce behind Romney

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Republican establishment started to coalesce around Mitt Romney in earnest on Wednesday, with Jeb Bush and other leading Republicans pressuring Rick Santorum to leave the race after a thumping in the Illinois primary.

But, on what should have been a triumphant day, Romney found himself having to defend his conservative credentials anew after one of his own top advisers, Eric Fehrnstrom, remarked that “everything change-

es” for the fall campaign. “It’s almost like an Etch A Sketch,” he said. “You can kind of shake it up and we start all over again.”

The remark fueled criticism that Romney molds his principles to fit with political goals. Democrats pounced, and by day’s end his GOP opponents were waving the draw, shake and erase toys at campaign events in Louisiana.

“The issues I’m running on will be exactly the same,” the former Massachusetts gover-

nor said in Arbutus, Md., as Republicans and Democrats alike mocked him. “I’m running as a conservative Republican. I was a conservative governor. I will be running as a conservative Republican nominee—hopefully, nominee at that point. The policies and the positions are the same.”

It all nearly overshadowed the endorsement from Bush, the son of one president and the brother of another. He had stayed out of the race for months, and some party elders publicly had urged him to become a candidate as Romney

struggled to close the deal with the conservative base of the party.

Bush refused, and on Wednesday he made his preference in the race known after Romney’s double-digit Illinois victory.

“Now is the time for Republicans to unite behind Gov. Romney and take our message of fiscal conservatism and job creation to all voters this fall,” Bush said in a written statement. He congratulated the other Republican candidates “for a hard-fought, thoughtful debate and primary season.”



AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney addresses an audience during a campaign stop at an American Legion post in Arbutus, Md., Wednesday, March 21, 2012.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

**INVITATION FOR BID**  
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 AM

**AMENDMENT #01 - NMHC IFB 2012-R-003**

**“CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER PATHWAY FOR SINAPALO CHILDREN’S PARK”**

Proposal packets will be available on March 19, 2012, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, at telephone numbers, (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mr. Barrie C. Toves, Rota Field Office Representative, at (670) 532-9410. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier’s check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2012, at the proposed project site located in Sinapalo, Rota, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders’ understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director of the NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 10:30 a.m. local time, Friday, March 30, 2012.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

/s/ **Marcie M. Tomokane**  
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**  
Division of Procurement & Supply

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**Job Vacancy Revised Re-Announcement**

Job Vacancy No. 12-001

Opening Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012  
Closing Date: Monday, March 26, 2012

**Financial Accounts Specialist**

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbents duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing paraprofessional financial related duties. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional financial support activities to include: researches, collects, analyzes, and reconciles billing information from disputed accounts. Compiles documents to prepare billing adjustments and completes documents to support adjustments. Prepares written responses to customers of approved dispute resolutions. Initiates telephone contact and maintains proper follow up with customers. Tracks and reviews pending service orders for filed investigations. Assists in the preparation of variety of reports to and from internal departments that will assist in effectively resolving customer disputes in a timely manner. Establishes and maintains positive interactions with internal departments to resolve customer disputes timely. Assists in the preparation and reviews of required documents for Administrative Hearings. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.

**SALARY:** \$23,200.00 to \$25,296.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.

**POSITIONS:** Four (4)

**CONTRACT:** Not contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associate’s Degree in Accounting or related field and three years of progressively responsible experience in the area assigned. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Administrative Procedures; Customer service principles and other applicable laws, rules, regulations; Basic mathematics; Telephone etiquette; Office policies and procedures. Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local Laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting/financial principles; Recording analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting of transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**Job Vacancy Announcement**

Job Vacancy No. 12-008

Opening Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012  
Closing Date: Monday, March 26, 2012

**Meter Technician**

**DUTIES:** Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbents duties and responsibilities are as follows: Installs or assists install customer meters to ensure billing of services received. Performs or assists in meter testing; replaces damaged meters with new meters. Performs or assists in disconnections and reconnections of services; disconnects tampered accounts. Performs verifications to ensure meters are functioning properly. Delivers delinquency notices to customers with no addresses. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.

**SALARY:** \$23,200.00 to \$27,262.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.

**POSITIONS:** Four (4)

**CONTRACT:** Not contracted.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** High school diploma, GED or ABE and three years of work experience, preferably with meter reading or metering experience. Knowledge of: Meters; Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Installing and replacing meters; Disconnecting and reconnecting meters; Identifying illegal connections; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport**

**TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES**

**PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-12**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Trash Collection Services for a period of two years at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing trash collection services for the Airport as described in the scope of work. The bid package which includes the scope of work, draft agreement, and insurance requirements will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport”. One original and three (3) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

The apparent lowest bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and insurance requirements. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive and responsible,” their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 9:00 am, Wednesday, April 11, 2012, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA’s requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of offeror’s preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO**  
Executive Director

March 19, 2012  
Date

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE**

**AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT)**

**PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-12**

**AMENDED**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, evaluation factors, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Tuesday, March 6, 2012. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport”. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following factors: (1) price, (2) company experience, (3) insurance requirements, (4) schedule of operation, (5) sufficiency of workers, and (6) financial capability.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA’s requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 2012 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project which will be followed with a walk through of the facility. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director at (670) 234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror’s preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offerors will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO**  
Executive Director

03/07/2012  
Date:

## World

## French police press besieged gunman to surrender

**TOULOUSE, France (AP)**—Riot police set off explosions outside an apartment building early Thursday in an effort to force the surrender of a gunman who boasted of bringing France “to its knees” with an al-Qaida-linked terror spree that killed seven people.

Hundreds of heavily armed police, some in body armor, surrounded the five-story building in Toulouse where the 24-year-old suspect, Mohamed Merah, had been holed up since the pre-dawn hours of Wednesday.

As midnight approached, three explosions were heard



This undated and unlocated frame grab provided Wednesday, March 21, 2012, by French TV station France 2 shows the suspect in the killing of 3 paratroopers, 3 children and a rabbi in recent days, Mohamed Merah. **AP**

gunfire rang out throughout the night, though officials insisted no full-out assault was under way. “It’s not as simple as that. We are waiting,” the Toulouse prosecutor, Michel Valet, told The Associated Press.

Authorities said the shooter, a French citizen of Algerian descent, had been to Afghani-

stan and Pakistan, where he claimed to have received training from al-Qaida.

They said he told negotiators he killed a rabbi and three young children at a Jewish school on Monday and three French paratroopers last week to avenge the deaths of Palestinian children and to protest the French army’s involvement in Afghanistan, as well as a government ban last year on face-covering Islamic veils.

“He has no regrets, except not having more time to kill more people and he boasts that he has brought France to its knees,” Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins told a news conference.

French authorities—like others in Europe—have long been concerned about “lone-wolf”

attacks by young, Internet-savvy militants who self-radicalize online since they are harder to find and track. Still, it was the first time a radical Islamic motive has been ascribed to killings in France in years.

Merah espoused a radical brand of Islam and had been to the Afghanistan-Pakistan region twice and to the Pakistani militant stronghold of Waziristan for training, Molins said.

He said the suspect had plans to kill another soldier, prompting the police raid.

The standoff began after a police attempt at around 3 a.m. Wednesday to detain Merah erupted into a firefight. Two police were wounded, triggering on-and-off negotiations with the suspect that lasted into the night.

## Islamists seek influence in Syria uprising

**BEIRUT (AP)**—The gunmen in eastern Syria, wielding grenade launchers and assault rifles, announced on the Internet they were forming the “God is Great” Brigade and joining the country’s rebellion. They swore allegiance to the Free Syrian Army and vowed to topple President Bashar Assad.

But unlike many other rebel bands, they wrapped their proclamation in hard-line Islamic language, declaring their fight to be a “jihad,” or holy war, and urging others to do the same.

“To our fellow revolutionaries, don’t be afraid to declare jihad in the path of God. Seek victory from the One God. God is the greatest champion,” the brigade’s spokesman said in the January video. “Instead of fighting for a faction, fight for your nation, and instead of fighting for your nation, fight for God.”

As Syria’s uprising evolves into an armed insurgency, parts of the movement are taking on overt religious overtones. Islamic movements in and out of the country are vying to gain influence over the revolt in hopes of gathering

power if Assad falls.

The Islamists’ role complicates choices for the United States and other nations who say they want to help the opposition without empowering radicals; a string of anti-regime suicide bombings have raised fears of al-Qaida involvement.

The groups diverge from violent jihadi movements to political moderates like the Muslim Brotherhood, which has already used the Arab Spring revolutions to vault to power in Tunisia and Egypt elections.

Their growing influence is seeding divisions within an already fractured opposition. A week ago, several prominent figures quit the Syrian National Council, the body of exiles that has tried to emerge as the opposition’s political leadership. They complained the fundamentalist Brotherhood dominates the group.

The council is “a liberal front for the Muslim Brotherhood,” said Kamal Labwani, a veteran secular dissident, who broke away. He said the Brotherhood was trying to build allegiances on the ground in Syria.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Myanmar will allow US, EU monitors for April vote

**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)**—Myanmar’s president confirmed Wednesday that his country will allow some foreign election observers, including from the United States and Europe, to monitor next month’s polls, considered a crucial test of reforms he has taken in the military-dominated country. Myanmar President Thein Sein, making an official visit to Cambodia, said each of the 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations would be allowed to send two official delegates to watch the April 1 by-elections, according to Cambodian government spokesman Khieu Kanharith.

## Filipino rebels: Differences blocking peace talks

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Muslim guerrillas say key issues are still not resolved in peace talks with the Philippine government and warn against too much optimism over an early accord. Chief rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal of the 11,000-member Moro Islamic Liberation Front said Wednesday that the remaining issues include a rebel demand for the expansion of an existing Muslim autonomous region. Government and rebel negotiators held negotiations in Malaysia this week.

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

## Valeria “Betty” Blau

Born to life on November 20, 1947 and was called to eternal rest on March 19, 2012.

Betty now joins her father †Niro Akitaya, †Grandpa Michael & Mlamei Blau, and sister †Katherine Blau

And her Loving Memory will forever live in the hearts of her:

**Mother** : Susana Blau

**Daughter** : Vanessa and Steven Igisaier (Monica, Daimeionne, Raven & Jerrid)

**Brothers & Sisters** :

Norbert & Basilia Blau & Children  
Julius & Hosiana Blunt & Children  
Serafin “Duffy” Blau & Children  
Gayline Blau & Children  
Loryane Blau & Children  
Viola & Richard Chisholm & Children  
Jack Blau & JJ Lewis  
†Katherine Blau & Children  
Delilah Echang & Children

Also survived by Numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces and Nephews, and Cousins.

Viewing and last respects will be held at the Borja Funeral Home from 08:30am to 10:00am on Saturday, March 24, 2012. Immediately after the service, her remains will be escorted to Tanapag Cemetery. Family and Friends are then invited to Gayline Blau’s residence in Koblerville (behind St. Jude Church) for lunch immediately after the funeral services.

Your kind expressions of support and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Susana Blau, Children & Grandchildren

# Life & Style

## North Carolina gets ready for 'Hunger Games' fans

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)**—Fans of "The Hunger Games" are already turning up in North Carolina, seeking out places where the movie was shot, from old-growth forests to an abandoned mill town.

And the tourism industry is prepared to cash in on them, with everything from hotel packages and zip lines tours, to re-enactments of scenes from the film and lessons in survival skills.

The movie, which opens this weekend and is expected to be a box office smash, is based on a best-selling book about a post-apocalyptic world where teenagers compete to the death in fighting games.

It was filmed entirely in North Carolina, from the mountains, where fake trees were planted, filled with propane and blown up, to Charlotte, which served as the Capitol from the story—the seat of power where the teens are sent for training.

Also prominently featured in the movie is the Henry River Mill Village near Hildebran, about 70 miles from Asheville, which was the setting for District 12, home of the three main characters, Katniss, Peeta and Gale.

Although the mill burned down in 1977, the 20-plus remaining buildings, including the company store, make it look like a ghost town.

The village is private property, and the local sheriff's department is working with private security guards to keep people away, concerned about liability if someone gets hurt.

But fans are already coming. "I'm getting too many visitors," said the property owner, Wade Shepherd, 83, who hasn't read "The Hunger Games."

"Day and night, they're driving through, taking pictures, getting out and walking. I'm just bombarded with people."

North Carolina's trees also figure prominently in the movie. At first, pine trees tall enough to suit the filmmakers' needs couldn't be found. But Pam Lewis, film commissioner in the western part of the state



This undated image provided by VisitNC.com shows the abandoned Henry River Mill Village in Hildebran, N.C., where scenes from "The Hunger Games" were shot. The house on the left was outfitted as the Everdeens' home in the Seam, part of District 12 in fictional Panem.

when Lionsgate, the film company, was scoping out locations, found a 22,000-acre forest of old-growth trees in Asheville's watershed, and that's where the movie's arena scenes were filmed. The public isn't allowed in this protected watershed area, but plenty of other forests are open to visitors.

Filmmakers spent more than \$60 million on "The Hunger Games" in North Carolina, and employed about 5,000 people, including stars, extras and crews, making it the largest movie ever made here. Other famous movies filmed in the state include "Dirty Dancing," "The Last of the Mohicans" and "Bull Durham."

"The Hunger Games" is based on the first book from author Suzanne Collins' best-selling trilogy. It's about a futuristic world in which North America has been divided into 12 districts. Every year, a teen-

age boy and girl (known as tributes) are sent from each district to the opulent Capitol, where they're trained to fight until only one is left.

The state Division of Tourism has designed a four-day self-guided tour for fans. The first day includes stops at the Henry River Mill Village plus places where the stars hung out in Asheville. Next is DuPont State Recreational Forest near Brevard, where the arena scenes were filmed, followed by Shelby, where reaping scenes were shot in private warehouse space. A final day in Charlotte includes the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center's Knight Theater, where interview scenes with the teenage "tributes" were filmed.

For more adventurous visitors, a company called Hunger Games Fan Tours offers day and weekend trips to waterfalls and other spots in Transylvania County. As part of the tour, ac-

tors re-enact some of the scenes shot there, and guests are served food described in the story. Participants also learn survival skills like archery, camouflage, fire-building, how to use a slingshot and how to walk quietly in the forest. The tour even includes a competition—only instead of the loser dying, the winner gets a prize.

Prices are \$79 for the day tour, or \$389 for the weekend trip, with an overnight stay and a nighttime zip line tour in homage to the characters who jumped through trees. The tour will take guests to Triple Falls, where the character Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) hides after he's injured, and to the woods around Bridal Veil Falls, where fake trees exploded and the jacket worn by Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) catches fire.

But visitors can't run across Triple Falls like Katniss did in the movie—she was attached to wires and ran on a board. "That's not to be done by human beings," said Tammy Hopkins, co-owner of Hunger Games Fan Tours and director of the county arts council.

Asheville is offering package deals in partnership with local businesses. Promotions include a "Walk Like a Katniss Everdeen" package that combines a stay at Cumberland Falls Bed and Breakfast Inn with hiking at Chimney Rock State Park, and "The Capitol Experience" at Grand Bohemian Hotel, where the biggest adventure is a hot stone massage.

Of all the locations, the Henry River Mill Village has a backstory that's nearly as colorful as the plot of the movie. The mill, which opened in 1905, produced fine yarn. The village was designed as a planned community with company stores, walkways and green spaces. In 1966, a sheriff was shot and killed in the village by a mill worker. By the time Shepherd bought the town, three years after the mill closed, there were Thursday night poker games on the street, "and by Sunday afternoon, they were all drunk and shooting."

## Phillip Phillips moves up on 'American Idol'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Phillip Phillips didn't follow any of the advice from his "American Idol" mentors—and the judges loved him for it.

The 21-year-old pawn shop worker from Leesburg, Ga., defiantly wore gray after style adviser Tommy Hilfiger deemed it too drab. He shrugged off musical mentor Diddy's mandate to dance.

And he turned out a growling "Movin' Out" during an evening of Billy Joel tunes on the Fox talent contest Wednesday that Randy Jackson called "one of the best renditions of that song ever."

"You took that song and

you Phillip Phillips-ed that," beamed Steven Tyler.

Other singers who impressed the panel included 16-year-old San Diego student Jessica Sanchez with a touching rendition of "Everybody Has a Dream"; 28-year-old teacher Elise Testone, of Charleston, S.C., with a soaring take on "Vienna"; and 20-year-old alt-rock Colton Dixon of Murfreesboro, Tenn., with a classic version of "Piano Man."

"You sing with pure feeling," Jennifer Lopez told him. "I had goosies from head to toe the moment you started."

Deandre Brackensick of San Jose, Calif., opened the show with "Only the Good Die

Young," but it was 26-year-old disc jockey Erika Van Pelt of South Kingstown, R.I., who nabbed everyone's attention by debuting a shorter and darker hairstyle during her performance of "New York State of Mind." Lopez said Van Pelt's new 'do gave her a "Pat Benatar vibe."

Lopez wasn't feeling the delivery of "She's Got a Way" from soulful 19-year-old singer Joshua Ledet, of Westlake, La., though. She told the gospel singer that he needed to be "connected more to the lyrics."

She was more pleased with the twangy take on "Shameless" from 18-year-old country rocker Skylar Laine of Brandon,

Miss. "You're not shameless," said Lopez. "You're fearless."

The panel later targeted the pitch problems that 18-year-old singer Hollie Cavanaugh of McKinney, Texas, experienced on "Honesty." They were also in agreement that the over-the-top version of "My Life" from 22-year-old nonprofit organizer Heejun Han, of New York, was entertaining but outlandish. Jackson called it a "good time" but admitted the vocals were "missing a bit."

"At some point, you've got to take it more serious," Tyler sternly warned the goofy Han.

One of the top 10 finalists will face elimination Thursday.

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**The Hunger Games**

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson  
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

Inspired by the best-selling young-adult novel by author Suzanne Collins, The Hunger Games tells the dark tale of a 16-year-old girl named Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), who is selected to compete in a vicious televised tournament in which 24 teenagers from a post-apocalyptic society fight to the death for the entertainment of the masses. Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth co-star.

**21 Jump Street**

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum  
Comedy, Action • Rated R

### Synopsis

The television series that shot Johnny Depp to stardom makes the leap to the big screen in this reboot starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Schmidt (Hill) and Jenko (Tatum) have the kind of faces that could let them pass for teenagers. Eager to prove themselves as effective policemen, the pair join the Jump Street program and go undercover to investigate a high-school drug ring. Now, the only thing more daunting than the prospect of taking on violent adolescent dope slingers is the possibility of experiencing the torture of their teenage years all over again. Ice Cube, Brie Larson, and Rob Riggle co-star.

**The Vow**

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum  
Drama • Rated PG 13

**John Carter**

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins  
Fantasy, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

**Dr. Seuss' The Lorax**

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift  
Children's/Family • Rated PG

**Act of Valor**

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez  
Adventure, Action • Rated R

**Journey2: Mysterious Island**

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine  
Adventure • Rated PG

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## R. Kelly brings back 'Trapped' musical series

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Get ready for more drama from Sylvester, Twan and Pimp Lucius—R. Kelly is delivering more chapters of "Trapped in the Closet."

The outrageous musical series started off as five videos for the R&B singer's dramatic cliffhanger songs in 2007. It quickly became a cult classic, and he added more chapters, put the accompanying videos on a DVD and also teamed up with IFC to premiere the series. It grew to 22 chapters.

For the next chapters, Kelly is teaming up with IFC again. He said in a statement Wednesday: "The Alien is back and it has brought friends along."

"When I first began experiencing the unknown journey of writing 'Trapped in the Closet,' I knew after the first chapter that I had tapped into something that was not of this earth," he said. "'Trapped in the Closet' fans put on your seatbelts 'cause 'Trapped in the Closet' is coming to take you away."

Ann Carli, the producer of "Trapped," said filming for the new chapters will begin in Chicago in the spring and be out by the fall, along with new characters.

"You'll see pretty much most of the main characters back, and you'll find out pretty early on what the package is, and whose got the package," said Carli, referring to the cliffhanger of the last chapter.

Carli said in a phone interview Wednesday that the series almost didn't get made. When Kelly presented his 16-minute "Trapped" song to his Jive record company at the time, the label didn't know what to do with it, Carli said.

She pushed to make a series of videos like a movie to accompany it, and the song and the videos became a sensation.

But despite its success, more chapters almost didn't happen. It wasn't until an interview when Kelly said that money was the holdup to producing more installments that offers flooded in to produce them, Carli said.

"I got calls from all over the world," she said.

IFC said "Trapped" gave the network its biggest online audience ever. A DVD of the new chapters should be released by the holidays, Carli said.

Meanwhile, Kelly is to release his new album, "Write Me Back," in the summer. His memoir, "Soulacoaster: The Diary of Me," is due out in June.

Carli said the new album is a sequel of sorts to his Grammy-nominated "Love Letter."

"There's a lot of '70s influenced music," she said. "He had a real ball kind of just stretching himself and exploring some of the music that he loves."

## The Situation says he's in drug treatment

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The party is on hold for The Situation. The "Jersey Shore" cast member is getting treatment for prescription medication use.

Mike Sorrentino says he's voluntarily seeking to "take control" of medication he was taking to deal with exhaustion.

The 29-year-old reality star known for his steel abs made the admission on Facebook and his personal website after gossip sites reported he was in rehab.

He says he has "spent the past several weeks getting treatment for this problem and recuperating from my work and appearance schedule." He didn't specify the medication.

An email from MTV says the network has no comment but fully expects and is "looking forward" to the entire cast returning for a sixth season of the hit reality show.

MTV had announced this week that production would begin this summer in Seaside Heights, N.J.

In this March 9, 2011 file photo, Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino, a cast member on the MTV reality show "Jersey Shore," arrives to the Comedy Central Roast of Donald Trump in New York.



## Ahoy, matey!: Hugh Grant at 'Pirates' premiere

**LONDON (AP)**—Hugh Grant is stepping away from his usual romantic fare—to walk the plank.

The British actor is starring in "The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists," his first animated film role. He plays a pirate captain—called Pirate Captain—on a quest to win the Pirate of the Year Award.

He joined co-star David Tennant at the premiere of the latest adventure from Aardman Animations, creators of "Wallace and Gromit," in London on Wednesday.

The "Notting Hill" actor admitted he doesn't see many similarities between himself and his pirate persona.

"I looked at it and I thought 'well I'm nothing like that, this is terrible casting.' So I actually had to adapt myself, and I had to do a bit of acting for once," he joked.

Pirate Captain takes his crew, voiced by such British actors as Martin Freeman, Brendan Gleeson, Russell Tovey and Ashley Jensen, from Blood Island to London, helping Tennant's scientist along the way.

On the red carpet, ex-"Dr. Who" star Tennant shared his excitement about being part of a film with such a big English cast:

"It is a bit like being called up for some sort of national service. You think 'well, I am serving my country,'" he said. "Clearly that is an exaggeration, but you do feel like in terms of the acting establishment you're being called out to bat and you don't want to mess up."

"The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists" opens in the U.K. on March 28 and in the U.S. on April 27 with the title "The Pirates! Band of Misfits."

## 'The Book of Mormon' celebrates with giveaway

**NEW YORK (AP)**—One of the hardest tickets to get on Broadway could be yours for free—as long as you've got some luck.

The producers of "The Book of Mormon" said Wednesday they'll celebrate the show's anniversary by handing out seats

to a free matinee performance on June 6 for whoever survives a ticket lottery.

Starting Wednesday through May 20, all lottery entries, win or lose, will count as one entry in the sweepstakes toward winning tickets for the free show.

The wildly popular musical won nine Tony Awards, including best musical. It already has a ticket lottery that has attracted as many as 600 people at some performances to the 1,066-seat Eugene O'Neill Theatre.

Jason Wells said there was "no news at the moment" about possible e-book editions.

The new "Wimpy Kid" will come out in seven countries simultaneously, including Britain, Greece and Japan.

that a new book, currently untitled, was coming from "Wimpy Kid" author Jeff Kinney. The first six books have sold more than 75 million copies worldwide even though they remain available in paper only. Abrams spokesman

ets for the free show.

British actor, Hugh Grant, poses with a parrot at the UK premiere of The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists, at a central London venue, Wednesday, March 21, 2012.



British actor, Hugh Grant, poses with a parrot at the UK premiere of The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists, at a central London venue, Wednesday, March 21, 2012.

## Doubling up at cemetery makes room for husband's two wives

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** Years ago I lost my beautiful wife. We had been married for more than 30 years. I bought a plot at the cemetery for both of us, and she's buried there now.

I have since remarried and have been blessed with another wonderful wife. There are no spaces left next to the existing plot, although I would like to be placed between both my wives when the time comes. Any recommendations?

*Dear Abby*

MR. IN-BETWEEN

**DEAR MR. IN-BETWEEN:** You have a couple of options. One would be to ask if your cemetery permits "double-depth" burials, in which one vault is placed on top of another. Or, if you wish, upon your demise you could choose cremation for yourself and have your ashes divided and placed with both wives.

I discussed your question with a wonderful lady, Lisa Carlson, executive director of the Funeral Ethics Organization. She's a mine of commonsense information on the subject of death and funerals—a subject many people find difficult to discuss.

Lisa reminded me that years ago, funerals were handled at home and by the community, and children grew up understanding what would happen when a death occurred. However, as we turned death over to funeral directors, much of that common knowledge has been lost. The average adult plans only one funeral in a lifetime, and few schools teach us what our choices and rights are—or how to save money on funerals.

Readers, the Funeral Ethics Organization publishes free, state-specific pamphlets on the subject of funeral consumer rights. To download one for your state, visit its website, [funeralethics.org](http://funeralethics.org), or send a business-size SASE to Funeral Ethics Organization, 87 Upper Access Road, Hinesburg, VT 05461, for a print version.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently married my boyfriend of five years. Our marriage is only a few months old, and we're not happy. My husband is sweet, but he is absolutely the world's worst communicator. He's an introvert and has a "whatever" attitude about everything. He tells me he can't put his feelings into words. So how can we fix any of our problems?

We also constantly fight about our sex life. I'd appreciate it at least weekly. He doesn't care if we do "it" or not. I have voiced my concern about our sex life, but it doesn't seem to help. I feel rejected and hurt, and I crave this attention from my husband. I'm an affectionate and attractive young woman—so what gives?

NEEDS ATTENTION IN DALLAS

**DEAR NEEDS ATTENTION:** Was your husband this way during the five years you were together before the wedding? If he was, you shouldn't have gone through with it because people don't magically change after a trip to the altar.

If he was passionate, attentive and verbal but now has withdrawn, ask him a simple question: "Do you still want to be married to me?" If he can't answer that one, it's time to ask yourself an important question: "Am I better off with him or not?" If the answer is no, accept the fact that it's time to end the marriage.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Calvin and Hobbes

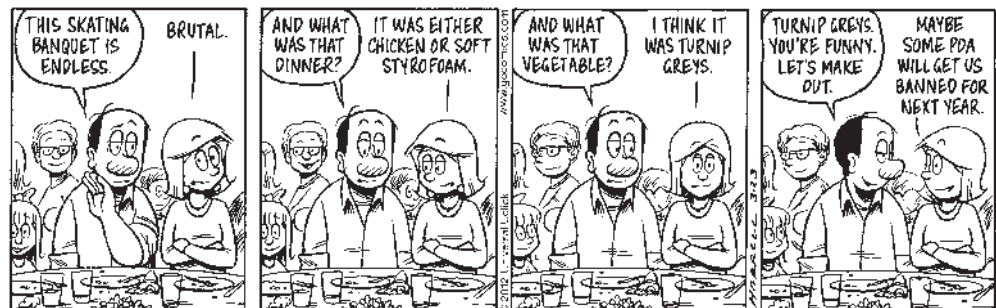
# Garfield®

**By Jim Davis**



## The Duplex

**By Glenn McCoy**



*By Eugene Sheffer*

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

A	B	E	D		C	G	I		E	C	H	O
R	O	M	E		L	A	D	S	L	A	B	
I	A	M	B		U	S	E		C	U	R	E
D	R	Y	A	D	S			S	C	A	N	T
			R	O	T				I	R	K	
D	O	C	K		E	S	C	A	P	E	E	S
U	R	I			R	F	I			R	N	A
C	R	E	V	A	S	S	E		P	S	S	T
		A	I	L			A	G	O			
C	O	N	R	A	D			V	E	L	V	E
A	R	E	A			O	W	E			I	O
B	E	R	G		O	A	R		S	T	E	P
S	O	S	O		M	R	S		H	E	S	

Yesterday's answer 3-23

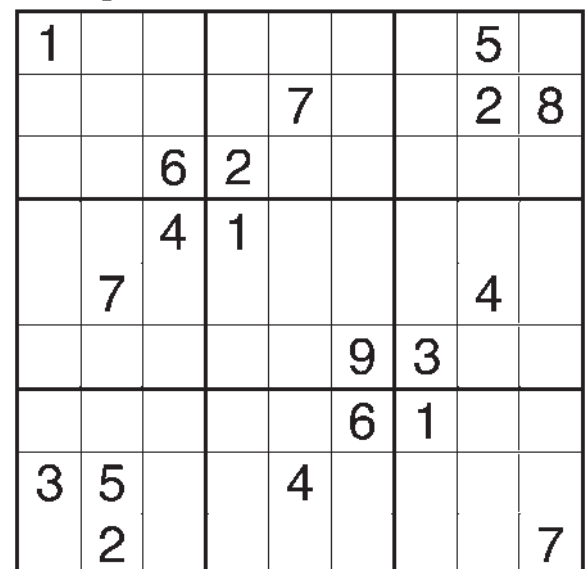
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16			17			
		18				19			20			
21	22			23				24				
25			26		27		28					
29				30			31			32	33	34
			35			36			37			
38	39	40				41		42		43		
44					45				46			
47				48				49			50	51
52				53				54				
55				56				57				

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service. NYC.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Size up the situation you face and do whatever you can to keep everything running

*By Dave Green*



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

323

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**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look at your situation honestly and begin the process of implementing the changes required to make your life better. Happiness begins by making the right choices. Arguing will get you nowhere. Walk away from whatever isn't working out for you. ★★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

### Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer


2	9	6	3	7	4	1	5	8
4	3	5	8	1	6	9	2	7
7	8	1	9	2	5	3	4	6
3	4	7	2	6	1	5	8	9
5	1	8	4	9	7	6	3	2
9	6	2	5	8	3	7	1	4
1	2	9	6	5	8	4	7	3
8	5	4	7	3	9	2	6	1
6	7	3	1	4	2	8	9	5

[20] K. Otsu, L. S. Davis, and S. S. Chao, *IEEE Trans. Pattern Anal. Machine Intell.*, vol. 13, no. 4, pp. 310–337, 1991.


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 **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't say what you are thinking, or you will have to defend your position. You are best to ride out the storm and stick close to home. Put greater emphasis on home improvement projects and going through your personal papers. ♄♅

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Remembering your past will help you make an important decision about your future. Getting together with old friends or revisiting places or hobbies you used to enjoy will help you move forward. ★★☆☆

 **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): An opportunity to put your talents to good use will also encourage an upswing in your earning ability. Turn to someone you used to have a wonderful rapport with and reclaim the friendship you once had. Take the initiative and enjoy the outcome. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You have an eye for quality, a decisive mind and a forceful attitude

*Eugenia's Web sites: **eugenialast.com** for confidential consultations, **myspace.com/eugenialast** for Eugenia's blog, **astroadvice.com** for fun*

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID  
QUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wondersword.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, PART 2

**Solution:** 7 letters

W	S	A	A	S	E	R	E	T	R	E	H	T	O	M
A	O	I	N	M	S	S	A	N	N	O	D	A	L	
E	J	L	E	T	S	H	I	R	L	E	Y	R	J	N
H	O	E	L	N	O	Ⓒ	E	I	L	L	I	B	A	E
T	U	M	O	S	Ⓓ	I	E	I	R	A	M	M	C	G
L	R	A	R	Ⓔ	T	L	N	H	N	C	B	E	K	I
A	N	A	Ⓕ	A	I	O	O	E	U	U	H	I	S	N
I	E	S	H	S	C	L	N	R	T	T	T	T	O	A
R	R	O	E	R	I	H	I	E	A	T	R	N	N	L
O	Y	R	C	D	A	E	E	L	C	C	E	E	Y	F
T	L	H	A	R	P	E	P	L	E	R	K	R	R	E
C	I	Y	R	Y	N	A	E	W	A	J	A	C	F	M
I	M	U	S	R	I	K	R	E	P	S	B	C	A	S
V	E	I	O	B	L	A	C	K	W	E	L	L	T	A
T	B	A	N	T	H	O	N	Y	S	A	L	I	Y	C

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Althea, Amelia, Anthony, Aoinettee, Baker, Billie, Blackwell, Busy  
Caroline, Carson, Cause, Curie, Earhart, Emily, Flanigen, Gift, Harriet  
Holiday, Jackson, Ladonna, Lise, Marian, Marie, Mary, Meltnier  
Mother Teresa, Parks, Perkins, Plath, Rachel, Rosa, Sacajawea,  
Sally, Shirley, Sojourner, Susan, Tubman, Victoria, Wolstonecraft  
**Yesterday's Answer: Strength**

THE COLLECTED WORKS OF ROBERT B. HEINLEIN, Volume 23 is his "Heide in a Suit" featuring the US president, and 4 Canadian provinces. To date, 99% of each US issue is available in paperback, and 95% of each paperback is in hardcover. \$1.95 each and a book. Send to: WDWFACTS, 1130

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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# Saints coach suspended for season over bounties

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Meting out unprecedented punishment for a crush-for-cash bounty system that targeted key opposing players, the NFL suspended New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton without pay for next season and indefinitely banned the team's former defensive coordinator, Gregg Williams.

Payton is the first head coach suspended by the league for any reason, accused of trying to cover up a system of extra cash payouts that NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on Wednesday called "particularly unusual and egregious" and "totally unacceptable."

Sending a message by taking a harsh stand, Goodell also banned Saints general manager Mickey Loomis for the first eight regular-season games next season—believed to be the first time a GM was suspended by the NFL—and assistant coach Joe Vitt for the first six games.

In addition, Goodell fined the Saints \$500,000 and took away their second-round draft picks this year and next.

"We are all accountable and responsible for player health and safety and the integrity of the game. We will not tolerate conduct or a culture that undermines those priorities," said Goodell, whose league faces more than 20 concussion-related lawsuits brought by hundreds of former players. "No one is above the game or the rules that govern it."

Payton, whose salary this season was to be at least \$6 million, ignored instructions from the NFL and Saints ownership to make sure bounties weren't being paid. The league also chastised him for choosing to "falsely deny that the program existed," and for trying to "encourage the false denials by instructing assistants to 'make sure our ducks are in a row.'"

All in all, Goodell's ruling is a real blow to the Saints, a franchise that Payton and quarterback Drew Brees revived and led to the 2010 Super Bowl title after decades of such futility that fans wore paper bags over their heads at home games.

Brees reacted quickly to the news on Twitter, writing: "I am speechless. Sean Payton is a great man, coach, and mentor. ... I need to hear an explanation for this punishment."

The Saints now must decide who will coach the team in Payton's place—his suspension takes effect April 1—and who will make roster moves while Loomis is out. There was no immediate word from the Saints, but two candidates to take over coaching duties are defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo and offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael Jr. Spagnuolo has NFL head coaching experience; Carmichael does not, but has



In this Sept. 26, 2010, file photo, New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton and defensive coordinator Gregg Williams talk during an NFL football game at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, La.

been with the club since 2006.

When the NFL first made its investigation public on March 2, Williams admitted to—and apologized for—running the program while in charge of the Saints' defense. He was hired in January by the St. Louis Rams; head coach Jeff Fisher said Wednesday he'll probably use a committee of coaches to replace Williams in 2012.

Goodell will review Williams' status after the upcoming season and decide whether he can return.

"I accept full responsibility for my actions," Williams said in a statement issued by the Rams. "I will continue to cooperate fully with the league and its investigation and ... I will do everything possible to

re-earn the respect of my colleagues, the NFL and its players in hopes of returning to coaching in the future."

While some players who played for Williams elsewhere said he oversaw bounty systems there, too, the league said its interviews didn't find evidence that "programs at other clubs involved targeting opposing players or rewarding players for injuring an opponent." But Goodell could re-open the case if new information emerges.

After the NFL made clear that punishments for the Saints were looming, Payton and Loomis took the blame for violations that they acknowledged "happened under our watch" and said club owner Tom Benson "had nothing to do" with the

bounty pool, which reached as much as \$50,000 during the season New Orleans won its championship.

The NFL said the scheme involved 22 to 27 defensive players; targeted opponents included quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers, Cam Newton, Brett Favre and Kurt Warner. "Knockouts" were worth \$1,500 and "cart-offs" \$1,000, with payments doubled or tripled for the playoffs.

"The bounty thing is completely unprofessional. I'm happy the league has made it known it won't be tolerated," said left tackle Jordan Gross, Newton's teammate on the Carolina Panthers. "To think that something like that would happen—guys trying to hurt someone to make a few extra bucks—is just ap-

palling. I mean we have a lot on the line, every single one of us. ... You don't want to see anyone taken out a game."

According to the league, Saints defensive captain Jonathan Vilma offered \$10,000 to any player who knocked then-Vikings QB Favre out of the 2010 NFC championship game. The Saints were flagged for roughing Favre twice in that game, and the league later said they should have received another penalty for a brutal high-low hit from Remi Ayodele and Bobby McCray that hurt Favre's ankle. He was able to finish the game, but the Saints won in overtime en route to the franchise's only Super Bowl appearance.

All payouts for specific performances in a game, includ-

ing interceptions or causing fumbles, are against NFL rules. The NFL warns teams against such practices before each season, although in the aftermath of the revelations about the Saints, current and former players from various teams talked about that sort of thing happening frequently — just not on the same scale as was found in New Orleans.

In a memo to the NFL's 32 teams, Goodell ordered owners to make sure their clubs are not offering bounties now. Each club's principal owner and head coach must certify in writing by March 30 that no pay-for-performance system exists.

Punishment for any Saints players involved will be determined later, because the league is still reviewing the case with the NFL Players Association.

"While I will not address player conduct at this time, I am profoundly troubled by the fact that players—including leaders among the defensive players—embraced this program so enthusiastically and participated with what appears to have been a deliberate lack of concern for the well-being of their fellow players," Goodell said.

The discipline for the Saints' involvement in the bounty scheme is more far-reaching and unforgiving than what Goodell came up with in 2007, when the New England Patriots cheated by videotaping an opponent. Goodell fined the Patriots \$250,000, stripped a first-round draft pick, and docked their coach, Bill Belichick, \$500,000 for what was known as "Spygate."

As recently as this year, Payton said he was entirely unaware of the bounties—"a claim contradicted by others," the league said. And according to the investigation, Payton received an email before the Saints' first game in 2011 that read, "PS Greg Williams put me down for \$5000 on Rogers (sic)." When Payton was shown that email by NFL investigators, he acknowledged it referred to a bounty on Rodgers, whose Packers beat the Saints in Week 1.

The league said that in addition to contributing money to the bounty fund, Williams oversaw record-keeping, determined payout amounts and recipients, and handed out envelopes with money to players. The NFL said Williams acknowledged he intentionally misled NFL investigators when first questioned in 2010, and didn't try to stop the bounties.

Vitt was aware of the bounties and, according to the league, later admitted he had "fabricated the truth" when interviewed in 2010.

Loomis knew of the bounty allegations at least by February 2010, when he was told by the league to end the practice. But the NFL said he later admitted he didn't do enough to determine if there were bounties or to try to stop them.

## Jets, Broncos complete trade for Tebow

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Tim Tebow is coming to New York. Really.

After a big false start, the New York Jets pulled off a Tebow-like comeback Wednesday night, getting the quarterback who turned the Denver Broncos from an also-ran into a playoff team last season and became the NFL's most talked-about player—for a fourth- and sixth-round draft pick.

Now, Tebowmania is opening on Broadway.

And, there's sure to be plenty of drama—just as there was from the moment the Jets pulled off the deal. Or thought they did, that is.

"I'm thankful they stuck with me through this whole crazy process," Tebow said during a call late Wednesday night, repeating several times that he was "excited" to be a member

of the Jets.

Eight hours after initially agreeing to a trade, the teams completed it after it was hung up when the Jets balked at repaying Denver more than \$5 million for a salary advance due Tebow. The two sides agreed to split that cost, and Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum said the team was "comfortable with the compensation."

He said there was a disagreement about how to handle the salary advance after Denver received the papers.

"We knew what the contract was," he said. "We had read it. ... We felt it was one way; they felt it was another. Based on that, they were well within their rights to assess their different possibilities of what to do and their alternatives. And they did so throughout the day."

So the Jets waited and wait-

ed—and looked as if they had botched the big deal. Despite ultimately pulling off the trade, it's just another bizarre moment for the Jets, a team that has had its share of them over the years, conjuring memories of Bill Belichick's hiring as coach and his resignation one day later.

The deal also raised questions about the Jets' commitment to Mark Sanchez, who received a \$40.5 million contract extension, with \$20.5 million guaranteed, earlier this month.

During a call late Wednesday night, Tannenbaum repeatedly referred to Sanchez as "our guy" and the team's unquestioned starting quarterback.

"Mark Sanchez is, has been and will be our starting quarterback," he said.

But the Jets have opened themselves—and Sanchez—to what could be a season of

added criticism from restless fans who are sure to call for Tebow to play at the first sign of struggles.

"We obviously know that Tim has a magnetic following," Tannenbaum said. "We understand the popularity of the backup quarterback, and this one is more unique than others."

Tebow said he had a "great conversation" on Wednesday with Sanchez, adding that they've been friends for several years.

"My goal is to push him to get better, and to push myself to get better every day," Tebow said. "But I think we'll have a great working relationship. We'll have a great relationship off the field, and we've had that the last few years. He's such a classy guy and handles himself so well, and I'll be very honored to call him my teammate."

# Bryant, Gasol lead Lakers over Mavericks



**DALLAS (AP)**—Kobe Bryant scored 30 points, Pau Gasol added 27 points and nine rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers stopped the Dallas Mavericks' four-game winning streak with a 109-93 victory on Wednesday night.

Ramon Sessions contributed 17 points and nine assists in his fourth game for the Lakers since he was acquired in a trade with Cleveland on March 15.

Dirk Nowitzki had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Jason Terry scored 23 points for the defending NBA champion Mavericks, 0-3 against the Lakers this season.

The Lakers ended a two-game skid and have won six of eight overall. They were on the second leg of a back-to-back following Tuesday night's 107-104 loss at Houston.

The Lakers broke open the game with a 24-6 spurt in the second quarter, capped by consecutive 3-pointers from Matt Barnes and Sessions for a 51-38 advantage.

Barnes and Bryant added 3-pointers during the decisive run, with the Lakers building a 57-44 halftime edge.

Los Angeles shot 57 percent (25 for 44) from the floor in the first half, led by Gasol's 6 for 7 and Sessions' 5 for 6. Gasol finished 13 of 16.

Bryant pulled off a spectacular three-point play midway through the third quarter, first spinning in a no-look reverse layup after Gasol's alley-oop pass. He was fouled on the attempt by Jason Kidd, and Bryant added a free throw that put his team in front, 69-55.

Dallas finished the third quarter with a 12-6 run to narrow the deficit to 80-72.

But the Lakers took control by opening the final quarter with a 10-4 spurt, capped by Gasol's 3-pointer with 8:04 left for a 90-76 lead.

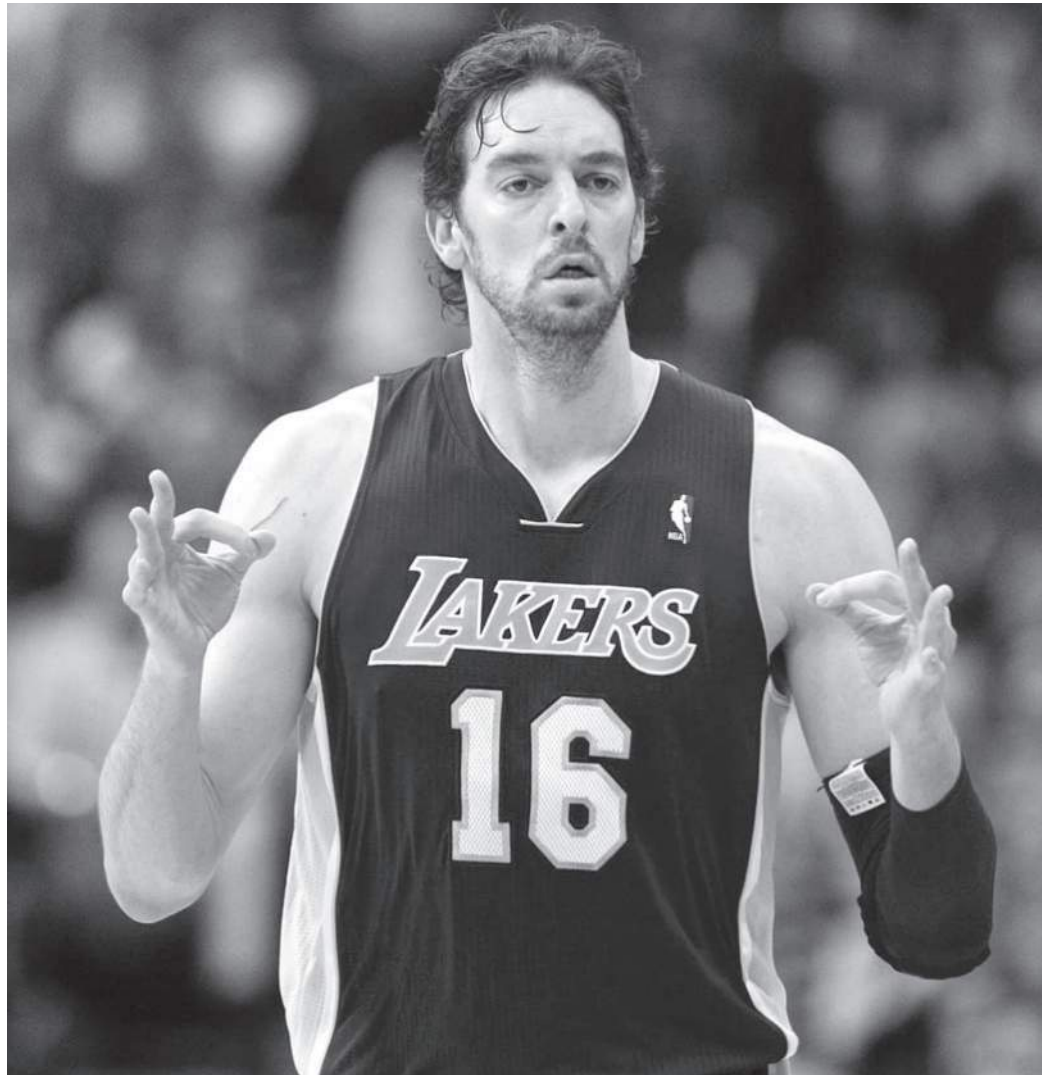
Mavericks starters Shawn Marion (sore left knee) and Brendan Haywood (sprained right knee) each missed their third straight game. Dallas is also minus a third starter, DeLonte West, who sat out his 18th straight game with a fractured right ring finger.

## Thunder 114, Clippers 91

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 32 points and nine rebounds and Russell Westbrook added 19 points as the Thunder shut down Blake Griffin to beat the Clippers.

Playing in his hometown, Griffin was held to a career-low seven points in the rematch of a Clippers victory perhaps best remembered for his emphatic dunk over Kendrick Perkins.

Griffin didn't have any dunks in this one, settling mostly for long jumpers and hook shots, and went just 3 for



Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol (16) reacts after making a three point shot during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks, Wednesday, March 21, 2012, in Dallas.

11 from the field.

Randy Foye started in place of Caron Butler and scored 23 points to lead Los Angeles, which hit 37 percent on a miserable shooting night from inside the 3-point line.

## Bulls 94, Raptors 82

In Toronto, John Lucas scored all 13 of his points in the fourth quarter and Luol Deng had 17 points and 10 rebounds as Chicago rallied to beat Toronto.

Kyle Korver also came up big in the final quarter, scoring all 10 of his points in the fourth as the Bulls came back after trailing by 12 early in the second half.

C.J. Watson scored 15 points and Ronnie Brewer had 12 for the Bulls, who won their third straight. The Bulls also won for the fourth time in five games without leading scorer Derrick Rose, who is still sidelined with a sore right groin.

DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points and James Johnson had 16 for the Raptors.

## Spurs 116, Timberwolves 100

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 21 points and 15 rebounds as San Antonio beat Minnesota despite playing most of the game without All-Star guard Tony Parker.

Stephen Jackson and Gary Neal each added 16 points for the Spurs, who won their fourth straight and fifth in their last six.

Parker left with tightness in his left hamstring with 8:03 remaining in the first half. He spoke briefly with Spurs coach Gregg Popovich before heading to the locker room with two

points and six assists.

## Knicks 82, 76ers 79

In Philadelphia, Amare Stoudemire had 21 points and nine rebounds to lead New York to its fifth straight victory.

Jeremy Lin scored 18 points and Carmelo Anthony had 10 to help the Knicks pull within three games of the Atlantic Division leaders.

Elton Brand had 12 points and 12 rebounds for the Sixers. Jrue Holiday scored 16.

The Sixers shook off a miserable start and a double-digit hole to make a run in the fourth, with Lou Williams nailing a 3-pointer to tie it at 63.

## Magic 103, Suns 93

In Orlando, Ryan Anderson hit seven 3-pointers and scored 29 points, and Dwight Howard added 28 points and 16 rebounds to help Orlando hold off Phoenix.

Orlando led by as many as 22 before the Suns rallied with under 5 minutes to play. But the Magic, who were 11 for 23 from beyond the arc, were able to string together enough baskets down the stretch to hold on.

The Magic snapped a two-game losing streak and won for the sixth time in seven matchups with the Suns in Orlando.

Jared Dudley had 17 points and Robin Lopez added 14 points and eight rebounds for the Suns.

## Hawks 103, Cavaliers 102, OT

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson hit a tying 3-pointer at the end of regulation and knocked down a baseline jumper with 10 seconds

left in overtime, giving Atlanta the win over Cleveland.

The Hawks rallied from a six-point deficit in OT, pulling even on Johnson's third trey of the night and a three-point play by Josh Smith, who led Atlanta with 32 points and 17 rebounds.

Cleveland had two shots at the end. Irving missed and Gee botched the follow.

Johnson rallied to finish with 22 points for the Hawks.

Irving nearly had a triple double for the Cavaliers, scoring 29 points to go along with nine rebounds and nine assists. Antawn Jamison added 23 points.

## Wizards 108, Nets 89

In Newark, Nene had 22 points and 10 rebounds in his debut for the Wizards, who beat New Jersey in a game marred by the third-quarter ejections of Nets' All-Star point guard Deron Williams and head coach Avery Johnson.

Williams and Johnson were tossed by referee Josh Tiven with 5:18 left in the quarter for arguing a non-call on a Williams' drive to the basket seconds earlier. Tiven appeared to call all four technical fouls, getting Williams first and then the coach.

Jordan Crawford added 23 points and John Wall had 12 and eight assists for Washington.

Williams had 17 for the Nets.

## Warriors 101, Hornets 92

In New Orleans, Klay Thompson scored a career-high 27 points and David Lee added 25 as Golden State beat New Orleans to end a four-game losing streak.

The Warriors trailed 58-51 midway through the third before Thompson sparked a 20-5 run. He hit a 3-pointer and converted a three-point play to give the Warriors a 60-58 lead, and Brandon Rush hit a wide open 3-pointer that gave Golden State the lead for good, 63-60.

Lee, who also had 11 rebounds, finished the spurt with a jumper that made it 71-63.

Jarrett Jack had his first career triple double for the Hornets with 17 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds.

## Nuggets 116, Pistons 115

In Denver, JaVale McGee re-

bounded a missed free throw following a basket with 5 seconds remaining and dunked to give Denver the win over Detroit.

Not a bad Denver debut for McGee, who completed a four-point possession as the Nuggets held on despite wasting a 25-point lead.

McGee, in his first game with Denver following his acquisition a week ago as part of the trade that sent Nene to Washington, finished with 15 points.

Ty Lawson led the Nuggets with 25 points and Arron Affalo had 23.

Ben Gordon scored 45 points for the Pistons, making all nine of his 3-point attempts.

# Derek Fisher signs with Oklahoma City Thunder

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)**—After winning five NBA titles with the Los Angeles Lakers, Derek Fisher chose the Oklahoma City Thunder as the team where he wants to go for No. 6.

Fisher signed with the Thunder for the remainder of the season on Wednesday, not quite a week after he was traded to Houston by the Lakers and subsequently bought out of his contract instead of playing with the Rockets.

He picked jersey No. 37, the same as his age, and took a bit of a shot at the Lakers in the process.

"Especially this season, it seemed to be a negative thing that I was 37," Fisher said after scoring five points in 19 minutes in Oklahoma City's 114-91 win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

"So I just wanted to send a message that the Thunder organization and I see it as a positive that I'm a guy that can still help a team be successful and compete for a championship at the age of 37."

The Thunder lost their backup point guard, Eric Maynor, to a season-ending knee injury in January but hadn't made any moves to address the position. All-Star Russell Westbrook had been taking on extra minutes as the starter, with rookie Reggie Jackson taking over as his backup.

Then Fisher became available when the Lakers decided to acquire Ramon Sessions from Cleveland and promote Steve Blake to the starter. Fisher had won five titles alongside Kobe Bryant in two separate stints with the Lakers, with stops in Utah and Golden State in between.

The Lakers lead the Pacific Division but are third in the West, six games behind Oklahoma City.

"Right now, they sit on top of the Western Conference and I'm just hopeful that the things that I do, the things that I've always brought to every team

I've ever played on, can be the right mix to help these guys continue to do whatever it is that they're already doing," Fisher said.

Fisher had played 13 of his 16 NBA seasons with Los Angeles before getting dealt away at last week's trade deadline.

"I think that I was surprised by it, but since then I've very much realized that it's not so much about what went wrong and why it happened but more so where I'm going next and the next chapter of my life," Fisher said, declining to speak in depth about his divorce with the team until later.

Without a moment of practice, Fisher immediately took over Jackson's backup minutes, although coach Scott Brooks called the 2011 first-round draft pick one of the Thunder's "important pieces going forward." Fisher has averaged 8.7 points and 3.1 assists during his career and has played in 209 playoff games in 13 trips to the postseason.

"He has winner all over his DNA," Brooks said. "You can never have enough winners in your locker room, and we have a locker room full of them. He just gives us one more winner."

Fisher played with the Lakers when they knocked Oklahoma City out in the first round of the 2010 playoffs on their way to a second straight championship. He said he's always respected the team because he's observed that the players play with energy every single game.

That approach was reinforced when he met with general manager Sam Presti while he was going through the process of clearing waivers and becoming a free agent.

"It's very clear that there's one common goal, and that's to maximize the abilities of every player on the team and try to bring, at some point, a championship to Oklahoma City," Fisher said.

# Marshall injury stirs memories of 1984 at UNC

By **AARON BEARD**  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



North Carolina is reliving a 28-year-old nightmare.

In 1984, the Tar Heels began the year favored to win the national basketball championship—but their point guard broke his wrist.

Fast forward to 2012, and point guard Kendall Marshall could be out with a broken wrist when North Carolina meets Ohio Friday in the NCAA tournament's round of 16 in St. Louis.

The Tar Heels were unable to get it done in 1984 with the team that included future NBA stars Michael Jordan and Sam Perkins even though Kenny Smith returned to the lineup.

North Carolina will see if it can get it done this year with a roster that includes Harrison Barnes, John Henson and Tyler Zeller with Marshall's return uncertain.

Bill Guthridge, an assistant to retired Hall of Fame coach Dean Smith from 1967-97, said he immediately thought of Kenny Smith after Marshall's injury.

"It's just tough to lose someone so instrumental in the way you play, and that's what Kendall does," said Guthridge, who retired in 2000 after three years as head coach.

Smith was a freshman starter and missed a month after breaking his left wrist. The '84 team

never rediscovered its dominant form after his return.

Guthridge is hoping it doesn't end the same way this time.

"That happens and hopefully we can overcome it," Guthridge said of Marshall's injury. "Coach (Roy) Williams is a great coach and he'll come up with something and hopefully we'll work it out and we can get a win or two—maybe a national championship, who knows?"

Marshall, a lefty, had surgery to insert a screw into his right wrist Monday. Williams said the top-seeded Tar Heels (31-5) are preparing to play without Marshall in the Midwest Regional semifinals.

Marshall is the Tar Heels' most irreplaceable player, from the way he drives Williams' fast-paced offense to the loss of No. 2 ballhandler Dexter Strickland to a knee injury in January.

Smith knows his injury prevented the '84 team from being considered among the game's greats.

"Obviously with Michael Jordan, you know who he's become and who he is, arguably could've probably been one of the best teams ever, I think," said Smith, now an NBA analyst for TNT and a college basketball analyst for Turner/CBS Sports. "I think we would've been thought of like the (1991) UNLV team that no one was coming close to ... I really be-

lieve that."

This was also expected to be one of UNC's best squads.

There were similarities between the 1984 and 2012 teams even before Marshall's injury. Barnes plays the role of Jordan and Henson provides the scoring, rebounding and shot-blocking from the long-armed Perkins. Zeller anchors the post the way eventual No. 1 overall draft pick Brad Daugherty did in 1984. Both teams were pre-season No. 1s.

But it all started unraveling with a thud in '84.

UNC was ranked No. 1 in every Associated Press poll that season except for a week at No. 2. But as the team improved to 17-0, Smith jumped a pass and raced in for a dunk before being fouled by LSU's John Tudor and knocked to his home floor.

Smith missed eight games before returning with a rubber cast to play the final two regular-season games. He returned to the starting lineup during the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

But after juggling from Smith to reserve Steve Hale and back to Smith again, UNC's chemistry was off. The Tar Heels went 26-1 in the regular season—a one-point loss to Arkansas was the only blemish—and 14-0 in league play, but lost to Duke in the ACC semifinals then fell to Bobby Knight and Indiana in the NCAA round of 16 in Atlanta.

Like Smith, Marshall was hurt when he was fouled and knocked to the court on a second-half drive.

The fractures for both players were to their non-shooting hands. Smith—who had a similar surgery to Marshall after that season—said Marshall's pass-first style could make it easier to contribute if he's healthy enough to return.

"I think he is such a great facilitator, a superior facilitator to anyone in college basketball today," Smith said. "He's a guy who could play a game with the

injury I had and still be super effective. I don't think I could've been super effective. ... I think he'd be OK because part of his repertoire is being able to score, but Kendall can go games and get six points and be the most dominant player on the court."

In a text message to the AP on Wednesday, Marshall's father Dennis said his son was "doing well" and "in good spirits." He said it was still too early to say whether Marshall could play in St. Louis, noting he "hasn't been ruled out, but not cleared to play either."

## Shaka Smart staying at VCU; Illini search moves on

**CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP)**—Virginia Commonwealth basketball coach Shaka Smart on Wednesday ended speculation that he might take the open job at Illinois by announcing that he'll stay with the Rams.

The decision by the young coach was cause for celebration among VCU fans and disappointment for their Illini counterparts—Illinois' search for a replacement for fired coach Bruce Weber has begun to resemble the search last year for a new football coach, when the school's top choices reportedly turned down the Illini.

VCU said in a news release that Smart's \$1.2 million contract will be adjusted, but provided no details.

He said in the release that he

appreciates VCU's support of him and his staff.

"There are great things to accomplish at VCU and I'm looking forward to building on the successes of our program and university," the 34-year-old Smart said.

"Coach Smart recognizes—as do the rest of the university community, alumni and fans—that VCU is the place to be right now," VCU President Michael Rao added.

At Illinois, Athletic Director Mike Thomas declined comment through a school spokesman.

Smart will bring back one of the country's youngest teams. The Rams went 29-7 (15-3 in the Colonial Athletic Association) and were eliminated in the second round of the NCAA

Kendall Marshall said on Twitter that his cast has been removed, and his father said he's now wearing a removable splint. However, if he's out, freshman Stilman White and versatile senior Justin Watts would play the point.

"Everybody goes out there and we play, and we just depend on each other," Barnes said. "I have confidence in John that he'll be able to step up. He has confidence in Stilman that Stilman will be able to step up. We have confidence in Justin Watts.

tournament this year after making an improbable Final Four run last season.

Neither school would say how much money Illinois offered Smart.

While VCU fans took to Twitter to celebrate—"Shaka is here to stay!" one wrote Wednesday afternoon—Illinois' fans were dejected.

"So which stage of grief are we in right now?" one wrote.

"Still anger here," came the quick answer.

Thomas now continues to look for a replacement for Weber from a field that reportedly includes Alabama coach Anthony Grant and Stanford's Johnny Dawkins.

Alabama spokesman Ty Patton declined comment, as did Stanford spokesman Jim Young.

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# Home Boyz, Team SCS lead in Budweiser Open 8-Ball

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Jonny's Bar & Grill's Docomo Pacific Home Boyz and Team SCS are the current front-runners of their respective Agingan and Obyan divisions as the Saipan Billiards Association 2012 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League's continued last Tuesday in various venues of Saipan.

The Home Boyz sunk Obyan's Water Front (21-81), 15-2, in an inter-league road match to improve its overall win-loss record to 85-17 and atop the five-team Agingan field. Meanwhile, defending division champion IT&E Voyagers (79-23) sit six games back in second place after besting sister team IT&E Incredibles (60-42), 11-6, on the road. New Saipan Aluminum's Hustlers (61-41), meanwhile, are clinging to third place,

a game ahead of IT&E Incredibles after downing Joe's Steakhouse's Fotten Palau (52-50), 12-5, in an inter-league home draw. Joe's Ocean Warriors (51-51) are still bringing up the rear after absorbing a 10-7 upset at home to Obyan's second-ranked Shark Attack (50-52). Over in the Obyan division, Team SCS (57-45) remains atop the nine-team field despite falling to Poseidon's seventh-ranked Yang-Ku (38-

64), 10-7, in a stunner on the road, while in other results 19th Hole Bar's Titans (48-54) defeated Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's shorthanded Boom Boom (31-71), 13-4, at home; and Jonny's Crazy 8 (40-62) upset 19th Hole's Poksu (41-61), 10-7, at home. Though trailing by at least a handful, Obyan's second place team Fotten Palau, third-ranked Shark Attack, and the fourth place Titans are all still within striking distance.

## SAIPAN

From Page 32

our island and XTERRA, as when they come back to their home town, they could spread the word about the race and our beautiful island," Tenorio said. Leading the list of visiting pros competing in tomorrow's off-road triathlon are former champion Olivier Marceau (2004 to 2007) and Renata Bucher (2005-2010). Joining them are United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack and Graham Wadsworth, Australia's Ben

Allen, Colorado's Will Kelsay and Branden Rakita, France's Cedric Lassonde, Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara, and Austria's Carina Wasle. Saipan's very own, Mieko Carey, is also entered in the women's pro field and will be competing as a pro for the third time, while Butch Sublemente will be debuting in the pro field this Saturday. "I am excited to compete against the pros for the first time. It will be very hard to keep up with them as they had been training for the past few months and had been to two races. However, hopefully, my better

knowledge about the course will help me to at least not finish last in the pro division," said Sublemente, who raced in the 2011 XTERRA World in Hawaii. **Give way on race day** Meanwhile, XTERRA Saipan organizers are calling the public to give way to triathletes on the road during race day. The race will start at Micro Beach at 6am and bikers and runners are expected on the road from 8am to 12nn, so motorists are requested to take extra caution while driving toward the northern portion

of the island. Dogs owners are also asked to secure their pets. After the 1.5-kilometer swim leg, XTERRA participants will head to Navy Hill, Kingfisher and Mt. Tapochao for the 32-km bike leg, and then to Navy Hill, Chinatown (Sugar King), a portion of Beach Road (in front of Huriguchi Building heading to beach side of McDonald's Garapan) en route to the finish line at the American Memorial Park. The public is invited to the finish line to cheer for both local and visiting triathletes.

## QQ

From Page 32

for fourth place in the 10-team field and a slot to the eight-team playoffs. The Sunrisers are also assured of a ticket to the next round despite dropping their last two games and completing their elimination assignments with a 7-2 card. Elgene Mangali delivered the blows for QQ, as he scored 23 points and redeemed himself from a so-so performance in their 61-70 loss to Andhok's Grille last Monday. Mangali drained 10 of his total points in the fourth quarter, including two crucial free throws to lift QQ to the four-point win. QQ nailed three free throws in the home-stretch to foil the Sunrisers' bid for their eighth win. Rolly Paraiso buried the other charity. The Sunrisers ended the elimination on a losing skid, as

only Jawn Joyner stepped up for the team, which missed shooter Josh Sablan. Joyner logged a game-high 27 points, while Jeff Quitugua was only the third Sunrisers player to score in double figures with 10, but most of them came early in the game. Pete Lizama also made 10 points, but struggled in the first three periods with only one field goal. Quitugua had seven points in the opening quarter, giving the Sunrisers an 11-8 lead. Then after a slow start, QQ Rent A Car picked up its scoring in the second frame, outgunning the Sunrisers, 26-12. Dan Mateo and Wowie Abuel teamed up in the recovery, drilling eight points apiece to hand QQ a 32-23 advantage. The Sunrisers cut the lead to four at the end of the third, 42-46, with Joyner firing 14 of their last 15 points in that canto. Joyner continued to lead the

Sunrisers in the fourth, while Lizama tried to help him out, however, Mangali was there to keep QQ's distance. **Crystal Pure 69, Smart Cagers 61** In the curtain raiser, Crsyal Pure edged Smart Cagers to boost its playoff bid. Crystal Pure improved to a 3-4 record for a three-way tie for fifth to seventh place with Shirley's Coffee Shop and SCS Heavy Equipment Rental. Smart Cagers fell to a 2-6 card for last place and are in danger of elimination. After a close first quarter, Sonny Lerio and Kae Bernardo drilled in six points each in the second canto, extending Crystal Pure's three-point lead after the first period, 17-14, to 11 at the break, 38-27. Smart Cagers played catch up from thereon, but Crystal Pure hung on in the fourth quarter

with its free throws conversion. Crystal Pure scored eight of its last 11 points from the foul line. Lerio paced Crystal Pure with 17, while Bernardo and Gilbert Miranda had 12, and Rex Yabut chipped in 11. **First Game** **Crystal Pure 69** – Lerio 17, Bernarod 12, Miranda 12, Yabut 11, Cruz 7, Cadag 5, Diyco 3. **Smart Cagers/Al'i'i 61** – De Dios 13, Gamboa 13, Dayrit 12, Peredo 12, Santos 6, Inos 5. **Scoring by quarters:** 17-14, 38-27, 48-43, 69-61. **Second Game** **QQ Rent A Car 63** – Mangali 23, Mateo 11, Abuel 11, Pagarao 8, Paraiso 5, Cruz 2, Montes 2. **Sunrisers 59** – Joyner 27, J. Quitugua 10, Lizama 10, Manibusan 7, Mendez 2, Guerrero 1. **Scoring by quarters:** 8-11, 32-23, 46-42, 63-59.

## ROP 12

From Page 32

With his absence, the featherweight title match that initially scheduled for the event will be postponed for later this year. His opponent Trench Tech's Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse (8-4), meanwhile, is still listed late on the card, however his opponent is yet to be determined. A boxing exhibition at 170 lbs kicks off the action featuring team Zalaka veteran Zac Reyes welcoming a new member from Guam's Countershot stable, Julius Yangetmai, to the ring for his debut. Then four K-1 kickboxing matches will take over the cage: Countershot's Jared "Smiley Face" Santos (0-1) and Zalaka's

Jordan Manglona (0-1) at 120 lbs; Guam Muay Thai's Jeremy "Pacman" Javellana debuting against Trench Tech's Tavita Lueta (1-0) at 140 lbs; Guam Muay Thai's Justin "JD" Dixon (0-1) against Danny Agulto at 140 lbs; and Zeng Zung's Regino Mundo (4-0) facing K-1 Guahan's Sonny Chargualaf at 145 lbs. Following the K-1 montage, five MMA bouts will precede the headliner matchups. Trench Tech's Ronald Hermosilla is set to debut against Zogai's Brandon "Commotion" Camacho (0-1) at 145 lbs; Tinian independent fighter Ton Borja will clash with Trench Tech's Seong Ho Chung in a double debut at 145 lbs; Countershot's Aaron Magbuhat (1 win, 1 draw) faces Tinian Zeng Zung's Pete Cepeda (2-1);

Countershot's Lloyd Cubacub (2-0) is paired up against Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas (2-3) at 135 lbs; and Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Maska (2-0) will collide with Ryan Toves at 150 lbs. The France versus Saipan super fight starts off the primetime action as Ground Fu's Ferrid "The Hurricane" Khedder takes on Trench Tech's Ning "Bo-Slice" Cepeda (4-2) Then Zalaka's Joe Duenas (4-0) faces Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique (7-0) in the first-ever Trench Tech bantamweight title fight followed by a juicy grudge match between Spike 22 Guam's Rick Camp (3-0) and Marianas Elite's Vince "Vincesanity" Pua (4-0) at 150 lbs. After Trench Tech's first

bantamweight champion is crowned Trench Tech's current featherweight contender Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse (8-4) is expected to face off-island competition at 145 lbs to set the stage for a heavyweight finale brawl between Trench Tech's Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter (4-1) and Guam's Pete "Big Mac" Miyasaki (1-0). In addition, Guam boxer Gianna Sarusal is on standby looking for a new female opponent at 130 lbs. Her teammate is also in search of an opponent at 115 lbs. Trench Tech boxer Juan Lansangan welcomes any 145 lb challenger; while MMA fighters Josh "Oh My Gosh" Cruz (135 lbs), Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez (125 lbs), and Jordan "Jungle Boy" Ogo (125 lbs) are also in reserve.

## TSUNAMI

From Page 32

his qualifying time (1:11:32). Kensuke Kimura was the third Tsunami Saipan swimmer to race in the 100m IM and also won a silver medal after submitting 1:02.89 in the finals. The younger Kimura was also the second placer out of 28 swimmers in the preliminary race, timing in at 1:03.12. Two other Tsunami Saipan swimmers raced in Day 1 of the Tokyo Junior Sprint with Hiroto Yanai and Takumi Sugie competing in the boys 11 and 13's 50m freestyle swims, respectively. Hiroto logged 31.79 seconds to finish at the No. 42 spot (out of 152 swimmers), while Sugie's 29.39 seconds was the 37th fastest among 102 participants. Only swimmers whose time made it to the Top 8 advanced to the finals.

Four Tsunami Saipan swimmers marched into the finals in Day 2, but only Ryuto won a medal after placing third in the 50m butterfly. He timed in at 36.39 seconds, which was better than his qualifying time of (37.56 seconds/third best out of

72 swimmers). Tammy also joined the 50m butterfly swim and her 35.72 seconds (fifth best out of 81 swimmers) was good enough to move her to the finals. The 12-year-old swimmer went on to surpass her qualifying time in the finals after tallying 35.27 seconds, but she missed the medal podium by two notches. Kaito Yanai and Kimura both entered the 50m breaststroke in Day 2 and barged into the finals after timing in at 35.95 seconds and 32.01 seconds, respectively. Kaito Yanai placed fifth (out of 36 swimmers) in the preliminary and dropped to eighth in the finals with his time of 36.10 seconds. Kimura, who had 32.01 seconds (fourth best out of 21 swimmers) in the preliminary, improved his time in the finals (31.86 seconds), but was one step short of winning his second medal after finishing fourth in the championship race. Hiroto Yanai and Sugie also swam in Day 2, joining both the 50m backstroke event. Eleven-year-old Hiroto clocked in at 39.20 seconds to finish at No. 36 out of 64 swimmers, while Sugie recorded 35.43 seconds for the 24th spot out of 36 participants.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	26	21	.553	—
Boston	24	21	.533	1
New York	23	24	.489	3
Toronto	15	32	.319	11
New Jersey	15	33	.313	11 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	34	11	.756	—
Orlando	30	18	.625	5 1/2
Atlanta	27	20	.574	8
Washington	11	34	.244	23
Charlotte	7	37	.159	26 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	39	10	.796	—
Indiana	26	18	.591	10 1/2
Milwaukee	21	24	.467	16
Cleveland	17	27	.386	19 1/2
Detroit	16	30	.348	21 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	30	14	.682	—
Memphis	25	19	.568	5
Dallas	27	21	.563	5
Houston	25	22	.532	6 1/2
New Orleans	11	35	.239	20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	35	12	.745	—
Denver	26	21	.553	9
Utah	24	22	.522	10 1/2
Minnesota	23	25	.479	12 1/2
Portland	21	25	.457	13 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	29	18	.617	—
L.A. Clippers	26	20	.565	2 1/2
Phoenix	23	24	.489	6
Golden State	19	25	.432	8 1/2
Sacramento	17	29	.370	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 94, Toronto 82

Orlando 103, Phoenix 93

New York 82, Philadelphia 79

Atlanta 103, Cleveland 102, OT

Washington 108, New Jersey 89

Oklahoma City 114, L.A. Clippers 91

Golden State 101, New Orleans 92

San Antonio 116, Minnesota 100

Denver 116, Detroit 115

L.A. Lakers 109, Dallas 93

Durant, OKC

James, MIA

Love, MIN

Westbrook, OKC

Wade, MIA

D. Williams, NJN

Ellis, MIL

Aldridge, POR

Howard, ORL

Nowitzki, DAL

Griffin, LAC

Parker, SAN

Paul, LAC

Lee, GOL

Gay, MEM

J. Johnson, ATL

Irving, CLE

Jefferson, UTA

Jennings, MIL

47	453	305	1298	27.6
44	441	279	1197	27.2
44	373	304	1129	25.7
47	421	232	1120	23.8
36	319	181	825	22.9
43	316	215	946	22.0
39	315	162	843	21.6
44	380	179	940	21.4
48	383	249	1015	21.1
44	330	206	919	20.9
46	389	180	960	20.9
42	316	180	824	19.6
41	290	163	799	19.5
43	339	157	835	19.4
43	329	132	826	19.2
41	290	115	781	19.0
40	280	147	760	19.0
41	336	103	776	18.9
45	313	125	846	18.8

FG Percentage

Chandler, NYK

Bynum, LAL

Howard, ORL

Pekovic, MIN

Gortat, PHX

Booker, WAS

Nash, PHX

James, MIA

McGee, DEN

Griffin, LAC

FG	FGA	PCT
179	259	.691
307	528	.581
383	662	.579
187	331	.565
309	555	.557
169	309	.547
220	404	.545
441	815	.541
221	411	.538
389	732	.531

Rebounds

Howard, ORL

Love, MIN

Bynum, LAL

Humphries, NJN

Griffin, LAC

Cousins, SAC

Gasol, LAL

Noah, CHI

Monroe, DET

Gortat, PHX

G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
48	179	533	712	14.8
44	178	425	603	13.7
43	140	401	541	12.6
45	166	328	494	11.0
46	145	354	499	10.8
44	181	291	472	10.7
47	135	346	481	10.2
47	181	296	477	10.1
46	180	281	461	10.0
47	125	346	471	10.0

Assists

Nash, PHX

Rondo, BOS

Calderon, TOR

Paul, LAC

Rubio, MIN

D. Williams, NJN

Parker, SAN

Rose, CHI

Wall, WAS

Conley, MEM

G	AST	AVG
43	474	11.0
35	364	10.4
42	356	8.5
41	347	8.5
41	336	8.2
43	346	8.0
42	335	8.0
34	271	8.0
45	356	7.9
42	307	7.3

# Trench Tech Trip to Tinian



Members of Tinian High School's JROTC pose with Trench Tech members and other volunteers for a group photo after finishing their community clean up held last Saturday at the San Jose Church.



Zeng Zung's Josua Q. Castro talks to Tinian High School students at the THS cafeteria about bullying, fighting, and violence last Friday. Also pictured, from left, are Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez, Mylo Lassiter, Kevin Park, Jasper Van Der Mass (partly hidden), Michael Park, and Shane Alvarez.



Boxercise participants count out crunches during the seminar.



Participants warm up with some stretching at the start of the Boxercise class.




Participants hit the floor for some push-ups during Saturday's Boxercise exhibition.



Participants undergo cool down exercises at the end of Saturday's free Boxercise session held at the Tinian Gymnasium.




Participants try out Trench Tech's boxercise drills last Saturday morning.




## Activity Schedule for March 23, 2012


8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices  
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM: Evening practices




NORTHERN MARIANAS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION




There are no scheduled games.



Gillette  
MULTIPURPOSE GYMNASIUM



There are no scheduled games.

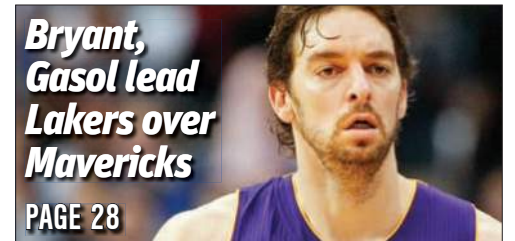


SAIPAN  
SOCCER SCHOOL



**Saints coach suspended for season over bounties**  
PAGE 27

# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Bryant, Gasol lead Lakers over Mavericks**  
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32 FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Saipan triathletes upbeat with pros arrival

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**S**aipan triathletes are excited to compete and race with the visiting pros in tomorrow's 2012 XTERRA SAIPAN Championship.

"It will be very inspiring to swim, bike, and run with these pros. It's been a while since we have a lot of pros coming over to Saipan. I am just honored and proud that I will be able to race side by side



with the pros. Of course, I don't expect to win against them, so it really gives me pride and inspiration to race with them," said Lewie Tenorio, who joined a group of pros in a warm-up swim at the Tanks in Susupe last Wednesday afternoon.

Tenorio will be racing in the age group division, leaving 10 visiting pros and two local ones to battle for the bragging rights and cash prize in the last stop of XTERRA Asia Tour's Triple Crown. The first two stops of the tour were Guam and the Philippines.

"Having a lot of pros here on Saipan is a good way to market

**See SAIPAN on Page 30**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Visiting pro triathletes enjoy an afternoon swim last Wednesday in the waters off Susupe where a partially submerged World War II tank is located.

## Tsunami swimmers win 5 medals in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers brought home five medals from the 2012 Tokyo Junior Sprint 2012 held over the weekend at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena in Japan.

Coach Hiro Kimura's swimmers took one gold, two silver, and two bronze medals in the two-day tournament (March 17 and 18) for athletes in the U15 age group. Ryuto Yanai gave Tsunami Saipan its lone gold in the 25-meter pool competition and added one bronze, while Kaito Yanai and Kensuke Kimura had one silver apiece, and Miku Tammy contributed one bronze.

Ryuto Yanai handed Tsunami its first medal when he won in the finals of the boys 8's 50m freestyle last Saturday with a time of 32.64 seconds. Yanai's time in the finals was more than one second faster than his quali-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Ryuto Yanai, seen here competing in a local meet last year, won one gold and one bronze medals in last weekend's Tokyo Junior Sprint.

fying time (33.76 seconds). The 8-year-old swimmer finished second in the preliminary race, which featured 132 swimmers.

Tammy also earned her bronze medal last Saturday when she placed third in the

100m individual medley race (for girls 9 years old), clocking in at 1:20.70. Tammy finished only eighth among the 68 swimmers in the preliminary race with a time of 1:22.60.

Kaito Yanai was entered in

the 100m IM, too (boys 12) and after taking the No. 5 spot out of 29 swimmers in the preliminary, he ended up at second place in the finals with a time of 1:09.72, about two seconds faster than

**See TSUNAMI on Page 30**

## QQ stuns Sunrisers in DLX/Miller Lite caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



QQ Rent A Car secured a playoff berth in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basket-

ball Invitational Friendship League after pulling off an upset against the Sunrisers, 63-59, during their game last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

QQ finished the round-robin elimination with a 5-4 record  
**See QQ on Page 30**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Elgene Mangali, seen here pulling up for a jumper against Crystal Pure defenders, scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter to lift QQ Rent A Car to a 63-59 win over the Sunrisers in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

## ROP 12: Unstoppable set for April 20

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



Trench Tech Purebred Promotions is proud to announce that its octagon has been repaired and ready to go for Rites Of Passage 12: Unstoppable set for April 20 at the Royal Taga Ballroom of Saipan World Resort.

The tentative fight card features Trench Tech's first ever bantamweight bout, a France vs. Saipan super fight, a Guam vs. Saipan grudge match, and a finale heavyweight main event.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech featherweight champion Rob "Chamorro Zombie" Wusstig is officially out of the fight card after recently undergoing abdominal surgery.

**See ROP 12 on Page 30**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Ground Fu's Ferrid "The Hurricane" Kheder, of France/Tunisia, will take on Trench Tech Purebred's Martin "Ning-Bo Slice" Cepeda in Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable scheduled for April 20 at the Saipan World Resort.